

Public Document Pack



To: Members of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee

Date: 9 September 2022

Direct Dial: 01824 712554

e-mail: democratic@denbighshire.gov.uk

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** to be held at **10.00 am on THURSDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2022** in **COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, RUTHIN** and **BY VIDEO CONFERENCE**.

Yours sincerely

G. Williams
Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services

AGENDA

PART 1 - THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THIS PART OF THE MEETING

1 APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST (Pages 3 - 4)

Members to declare any personal or prejudicial interests in any business identified to be considered at this meeting.

3 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

4 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (Pages 5 - 16)

5 DENBIGHSHIRE VOLUNTARY SERVICES COUNCIL (DVSC)

To receive an update from the Chief Officer on the progress achieved to date in delivering the DVSC's vision, enhancing its working relationship with the Council and voluntary organisations within Denbighshire.

THE COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING ITEM OF BUSINESS, BUSINESS ITEM NUMBER 6, IN ITS CAPACITY AS THE COUNCIL'S DESIGNATED CRIME & DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICE & JUSTICE ACT 2006 SS. 19 AND 20.

6 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (Pages 17 - 36)

To consider a report (copy attached) by the Community Safety Manager in respect of the Partnership's achievement in delivering its 2021/22 action plan and its progress to date in delivering its action plan for 2022/23.

7 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 37 - 58)

To consider a report by the Scrutiny Coordinator (copy enclosed) seeking a review of the committee's forward work programme and updating members on relevant issues.

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

Councillor Joan Butterfield (Chair)

Councillor Peter Scott (Vice-Chair)

Kelly Clewett

Terry Mendies

Pauline Edwards

Bobby Feeley

Raj Metri

Martyn Hogg

David Williams

Diane King

Elfed Williams

COPIES TO:

All Councillors for information

Press and Libraries

Town and Community Councils

Code of Conduct for Members

DISCLOSURE AND REGISTRATION OF INTERESTS

I, (name) _____

a *member/co-opted member of
(*please delete as appropriate)

Denbighshire County Council

CONFIRM that I have declared a ***personal / personal and prejudicial** interest not previously declared in accordance with the provisions of Part III of the Council's Code of Conduct for Members, in respect of the following:-

(*please delete as appropriate)

Date of Disclosure:

Committee (*please specify*):

Agenda Item No.

Subject Matter:

Nature of Interest:

(See the note below)*

Signed _____

Date _____

*Note: Please provide sufficient detail e.g. 'I am the owner of land adjacent to the application for planning permission made by Mr Jones', or 'My husband / wife is an employee of the company which has made an application for financial assistance'.

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 4

PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee held in COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, RUTHIN and BY VIDEO CONFERENCE on Thursday, 7 July 2022 at 10.00 am.

PRESENT

Councillors Joan Butterfield (Chair), Kelly Clewett, Pauline Edwards, Bobby Feeley, Martyn Hogg, Terry Mendies, Raj Metri, Peter Scott, David Williams and Elfed Williams

Cabinet Members – Councillor Rhys Thomas (Lead Member for Housing and Communities) attended for agenda item 7 and Councillor Elen Heaton (Lead Member for Health and Social Care) attended for agenda items 6 and 8.

ALSO PRESENT

Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services (GW), Head of Planning and Public Protection (EJ), Interim Head of Community Support Services, Support Services (AL), Senior Auditor (LH), Head of Communities and Customer Services (LG), Programme Manager – Housing Development (MD), Service Manager, Business Support & Communities (NJ), Chief Internal Auditor (BC), Service Manager - Specialist Services (AP), Interim Head of Community Support Services (DS), Scrutiny Coordinator (RE) and Committee Administrators (SJ & KEJ [Webcaster])

The Chair welcomed Hedd Vaughan Evans - Head of Operations for the Portfolio Management Office of Ambition North Wales, Stuart Whitfield – Digital Programme Manager and David Matthews – Land and Property Programme Manager representing the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (Agenda item 6).

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones.

Members were informed the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) representative Nicola Stubbins had sent her apologies. Gary Williams, Head of Legal, HR & Democratic Services, was in attendance for SLT support.

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillors Kelly Clewett and Elfed Williams both declared personal interests in business item number 8 on the agenda ‘Annual Report on Safeguarding Adults in Denbighshire’. Councillor Clewett as an employee of Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, and Councillor Williams as a director of the Conwy and Denbighshire Mental Health Advocacy Service.

Both councillors were advised to complete the required Declarations of Interest Forms and submit them to Democratic Services.

3 APPPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

Nominations were sought for the office of Partnerships Scrutiny Committee Vice-Chair for the 2022/23 municipal year. Councillor Peter Scott was nominated for the role by Councillor Terry Mendies and seconded by Councillor Bobby Feeley. No other nominations were put forward.

The Committee therefore:

Resolved: that Councillor Peter Scott be elected Vice-Chair of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee for the 2022/23 municipal year.

Councillor Peter Scott thanked Committee members for their support and for entrusting him with a term as Vice-Chair of the Committee.

4 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

None.

5 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 10 February 2022 were submitted.

The Chair informed the Committee she had been present at the meeting and moved the minutes as a true record.

Matters Arising – Councillor Peter Scott asked if there was any further development or information regarding the change to pesticide used. The Chair informed the Committee that the service had recalled the pesticide that had been in use and replaced it with a different chemical pesticide that was more effective. The Committee.

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2022 be received and approved as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

6 NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

Lead Member for Health and Social Care, Councillor Elen Heaton introduced the report (previously circulated) on behalf of the Leader, Councillor Jason McLellan Lead Member for Economic Growth and Tackling Deprivation. Members heard the purpose of the report was to provide members with the annual and quarterly performance summary of the work conducted by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (NWEAB). She introduced officers from the NWEAB who were in attendance to present to members a presentation and answer the Committee's questions.

The Head of Planning and Public Protection thanked Councillor Heaton for introducing the report. Members were provided with some background to the growth deal and the highlight headlines of the annual report by NWEAB officers. The report provided information on the projects within each of the growth deal programmes. The report also provided guidance on the governance of the growth deal. Confirmation of Denbighshire County Council officers' involvement in the projects was stressed. Officers attended project board meetings to input Denbighshire's perspective on the given project.

Hedd Vaughan Evans, Head of Operations for the Portfolio Management Office of Ambition North Wales, presented members with a PowerPoint presentation. He introduced to the Committee Stuart Whitfield the Digital Programme Manager and David Matthews, Land and Property Programme Manager.

Members were provided with background information on the Board and advised that the Programme Office reported directly to the Board which set the direction of the work and took any decisions required. The NWEAB had been in existence since 2016, setting a vision for North Wales. The Heads of Terms Agreement for the Growth Deal had been signed in 2019 following a lot of work and discussions between officers across the board. The Portfolio Office was subsequently created in January 2020. By the end of 2020 members heard the Board had signed and secured the final deal with both Governments, securing £240m investment into North Wales. Confirmation was provided that the growth deal had clear objectives built into the deal with the government.

The North Wales growth deal had been agreed on the basis of a portfolio of 5 programmes; Agri-food and Tourism, High Value Manufacturing Programme, Low Carbon Energy, Land and Property and Digital Connectivity. Members were presented with an extract that summarised the progress of each of the projects. The representatives guided members through each project and provided further detail of the work completed and work ongoing.

Included in the papers had been the annual report which highlighted some of the highlights from the activities of Ambition North Wales. Members heard over £1million of additional revenue had been secured to fund specific activities that complimented the growth deal. This included an innovation grant of £500k in partnership with Coleg Cambria Llysfasi to look at pilot projects to help the agricultural sector to decarbonise. An energy strategy had also been adopted for North Wales, working closely with Welsh Government. Highlighted to members was the successful delivery of the full fibre network project which was a UK Government funded project. The project delivered full fibre connectivity across public services across North Wales. Over 300 sites had been reached, significantly improving the quality of connectivity and the resilience of connectivity. Denbighshire had 65 sites connected. Members heard an element of the project had been to support rural areas with connectivity. It was hoped with the aid of Welsh Government funding the scope of the project could be extended to expand to a further 28 sites in the region.

The Chair thanked the officers for the presentation and for attending the meeting remotely to present the report. The following elements were discussed in more detail:

- The key strategic site of Bodelwyddan - substantial work was on going with the project. Planning policy may create substantial changes to the originally approved. Discussions with Denbighshire officers to assess the changes would take place and the project would be reassessed in the growth deal. It was hoped a decision on the project would be reached by the board by early winter. A horizon scanning questionnaire exercise was taking place to assess any potential alternative projects to be considered by the Board. The NWEAB would make the decision on any changes to the growth deal projects including removal or replacement projects.
- The Low Carbon Energy Centre of Excellence project with Bangor University had been scored as behind delivery due to a request from the University to delay of four months to confirm the scope of the project. The delay had not been accepted by the board as yet.
- Clarity on the Llysfaei Net Zero Farm project was also anticipated in the coming months. The delegated authority lay with the NWEAB to determine if a project would be removed from the programme.
- The funding received for Growth Deal projects was from a completely separate funding source to the Levelling Up funding.
- Inflation was a risk that would be considered by the Board. No further funding from either government would be received. Each project would be evaluated and inflation cost factored into the costing and any savings that could be made.
- Members heard all growth deals were required to have growth value added (GVA) as a target. It had been included on each project set on an individual project basis looking at the GVA uplift from jobs created. It had to be recorded as part of the growth deal. The Board viewed a range of benefits particularly the impact the projects had on communities and the area.
- The scope of the Digital Connectivity programme did not include schools. Welsh Government had historically invested in fibre connectivity to schools. Information provided to the board in 2019/20 indicated there being no additional need for connectivity to schools in the region. Confirmation was provided that the company Open Reach had been used for the scheme. Members heard Open Reach had published its exchange area plans for the UK including North Wales setting out its plans of investment.
- Confirmation that the video on Communication and Engagement project be circulated to members.

The Head of Planning and Public Protection provided reassurance that Denbighshire officers were working closely with the NWEAB colleagues. It was hoped that a potential Council briefing session on the Growth Deal and programmes could be arranged to brief all Councillors.

The Chair thanked all officers for the detailed presentation and response to members' comments and questions.

The Committee:

Resolved: *subject to the above observations along with the answers and assurances received during the course of the discussion, to receive the North Wales Economic Ambition Board's Quarter 4 Performance Report 2021/22 and its Annual Report for 2021/22.*

7 HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICES

Councillor Rhys Thomas, Lead Member for Housing and Communities introduced the Homelessness and Housing Support Services report (previously circulated). The report on the work on the Homelessness Service included as appendix 1 a progress report on the service provision, presented on behalf of the Internal Audit department of the Council. The Lead Member reminded members that homelessness had been and continued to be a challenging issue for all local authorities. New approaches had been called for by Welsh Government.

The Interim Head of Community Support Services, informed members that the report was a follow-up report to the one that had previously been reported to the Committee late last year. It was stressed that the Homelessness Service had undergone significant changes in 2021. A multi-disciplinary team had been established to support the homelessness team. Following the implementation, the Service had become more bedded in to the approach that Welsh Government wanted local authorities to take. This approach looked at addressing the wider impact of homelessness as well as trying to secure permanent accommodation.

The numbers in emergency and temporary accommodation remained at around 180 households. This figure included single people or families. The number was remaining constant as households were supported. Members heard the biggest concern the Service was the number of single people under the age of 35 presenting as homeless. Another challenge faced by the team had been to source and allocate housing for larger families. During the last 12-18 months, due to close working with the Community Housing team and registered social landlords, the Service had secured 99 households into permanent tenancies in social housing.

Working with the private rented sector to establish a private rent sector scheme had been challenging, due to the change in the housing market with a rise in demand for rented properties. The Welsh Government had subsequently changed the scheme which the Homelessness Team were in the process of implementing.

Members were informed that officers had been asked to develop a rapid rehousing approach. Development of an interim plan to submit to Welsh Government had begun. Rapid rehousing was where an individual would come into the homelessness system, be assessed, a tenancy sought and found and the Service would ensure that all the necessary support was in place. It was hoped that this would reduce the reliance on using emergency accommodation.

A contract had recently been awarded to deliver early intervention and prevention services. The Service had through the housing support grant funding procured a contract which was made up of a partnership agreement to support individuals and prevent people becoming homeless. The contract had been awarded in April 2022 and was just about to go live.

Members were informed that in Denbighshire the numbers of rough sleepers were relatively low. Officers were aware of those individuals whose choice it was to

'sleep rough;' therefore every effort was made to support and manage those people maintaining contact with each individual. Households entering the Homelessness Service usually did so as a result of a loss of tenancy of a property.

The Senior Auditor confirmed the original audit of homeless accommodation provision had concluded in March 2020 and raised seven risks and issues, two of which had been major risks. The low assurance rating had been raised due to the significant risks identified. The first follow up audit review was conducted and reported to Partnerships Scrutiny committee in December 2021. The follow up audit demonstrated a number of improvements but the time to deliver the improvements had taken longer, therefore the low assurance rating remained. The second follow up review recently conducted identified that considerable progress had been made. Only 5 of the 18 actions were remaining. The main areas of improvement remaining were around the recording of case reviews and putting in place written procedures. Following the second review the assurance rating had been awarded a medium rating. A further review was scheduled for December 2022.

The Chair thanked all the officers for the detailed papers. Officers provided further information on the following points raised by members:

- Housing First services were still being provided. Housing First was offered to the most entrenched homeless people with the most complex needs. It was a longer term service that offered 24/7 support. It provided ongoing intensive support. Funding had been received from Welsh Government and was currently continuing to be received. The rapid rehousing model included Housing First type provision.
- Under 35s remained a concern for the Homelessness Service as they were only entitled to local housing allowance rates for housing benefit. It was lower than what was typically affordable for those individuals. Officers were not aware of any changes expected to change the level of benefits.
- Following the Covid pandemic the numbers of households entering homelessness had remained static not reducing or increasing.
- A high assurance rating had been considered by Internal Audit following the recent review, but as two actions remaining were related to major risks the review was kept to a medium assurance rating. If the progress continued as it has been it was hoped the next review would result in a high assurance.
- Emergency accommodation was limited in rural areas. The Service did try and accommodate households in the areas where they requested, but this was not always possible.
- Social housing demand was monitored across the whole of the county, with the majority of the demand observed being in the north of the county. The law stipulated that individuals could only identify the county area of their preference for social housing, although the local authority made every effort to offer housing in the areas of the individual's choice wherever possible. When social housing became available, the Homelessness Team were approached first to offer to potential households.
- Members were reminded there was a policy in place to buy back former council properties that had been purchased as part of the Right to Buy Scheme. When those properties were placed on the market the Authority did look to purchase them.

- The Team worked closely with the Revenue and Benefits Service and were provided with access to data that could identify potential households at risk of homelessness. This piece of work had been conducted as a pilot scheme and was successful. Members heard that often the team relied on families communicating with the team for support. It was hoped that this early intervention work would be beneficial to support families and individuals as they encountered difficulties, encouraging them to contact the Service as early as possible with a view to averting a housing crisis at a later date.
- Where households required adapted properties, a team of officers supported individuals and worked closely with the family to assess needs and what support they required. Emergency accommodation for households requiring additional needs had been an issue. Accommodation already owned by the Council was often adapted to accommodate the needs of households.
- A private rented sector landlord forum was established, to allow officers to communicate with landlords and partners to open a dialogue of needs and discuss concerns.
- Landlords were required to be registered with Rent Smart Wales. It was one of the conditions that officers assessed when tenancies were obtained with landlords.

The Chair thanked all the officers for the detailed report and thanked all officers and their teams for the continued support for individuals and households.

At the conclusion of the discussion the Committee:

Resolved: *subject to the above comments –*

- (i) that it was assured the implementation of the multi-disciplinary homelessness service and cross-service Corporate approach was in line with the Welsh Government's vision of homelessness and housing support, and that it was contributing to the Homelessness Prevention Service's aim to ensure that everyone was safeguarded and supported to live in homes that met their needs; and*
- (ii) that having reviewed the significant progress made in addressing the audit actions it was now satisfied that any further update reports on the progress of the improvement plan be submitted from thereon in to the Governance and Audit Committee.*

8 ANNUAL REPORT ON SAFEGUARDING ADULTS IN DENBIGHSHIRE

Councillor Elen Heaton, Lead Member for Health and Social Care introduced to members the Annual Report on Safeguarding Adults in Denbighshire (previously circulated). The report covered the period from April 2021 – March 2022. In her opinion the report reflected the hard work that had been invested in maintaining the improvement of the quality and consistency of safeguarding work in Denbighshire. She commended the staff for the work and their achievements.

The Service Manager- Specialist Service, guided members through the report. It provided an overview of the performance of the team over the previous year. The report detailed the activities conducted by the Team with a focus on maintaining the

improvement in the consistency of the quality of the safeguarding work including the performance against the Welsh Government performance indicator to complete enquires within 7 working days. Officers were pleased to inform the Committee, that Denbighshire's performance against this indicator remained high at 99.7% over the last year.

The report also showed how the team had been fully implementing the Wales Safeguarding procedures which included reports or referrals relating to individuals in a position of trust. Members were guided to appendix 2 to the report which provided further detail in the form of a case study of a Person in a Position of Trust referral received. Appendix 3 provided the Committee with details on 'Section 5: Safeguarding Allegations/Concerns about Practitioners and Those in a Position of Trust Practice Guide'. It was stressed the implantation of this area of safeguarding was relatively new within the Wales procedures and had at times been challenging for the safeguarding team.

The report provided members with data including the number of referrals received over the last 3 years. It was noted the number of referrals had decreased since the COVID pandemic but did not cause officers concern, similar patterns had been observed in neighbouring authorities. The Team had received a number of calls from provider services and other professionals seeking advice and guidance.

Information was provided on the Deprivation of Liberties Safeguards. Providing members with statistics demonstrating an increase in the number of calls received in this area. The applications were mainly received from care homes and nursing homes and mainly regarding individuals who did not have the capacity to make a decision to live in a care home. Therefore, an assessment was required to ensure that the placement was in the individual's best interest. Members were guided through the key achievements during the 12 months as detailed in the report.

During the debate, the following points were discussed in greater detail:

- The figures on referrals of abuse reported in care homes was high as the individuals in these establishments were vulnerable. Staff had a duty to report any sign of suspected abuse. The number of referrals did not mean the level of abuse was higher than other establishments. The data was regarding the number of referrals it did not always mean abuse had taken place.
- Officers confirmed there was a waiting list for applications under the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards applications received. The demand was high, the waiting list was reviewed regularly and managed by the safeguarding team.
- Confirmation that two Best Interest Assessors (BIA) had been temporary recruited in an attempt to reduce the waiting list in preparation for the implementation of Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) in 2023.
- A review and remodel of the Team was currently taking place. Part of that review would include looking at what future resource the team would require.
- Recruitment and retention of appropriately qualified staff across all aspects of social care was very challenging at the current time. Corporate officers were aware of the challenges and discussed any actions to

support and improve the service on a regular basis. The challenges faced were seen across the whole of the UK.

- Local authorities were the responsible lead organisation for assessing adult safeguarding concerns. The report was solely based on the safeguarding of adults. If a report was received by a third party, it would have to be sent to the Denbighshire's Safeguarding Department for investigation, regardless of where the alleged incident occurred. The Council would then work alongside all partner agencies in undertaking the investigation. This model of reporting was in place across all other authorities in Wales.
- The Conwy and Denbighshire Delivery Group is a monthly meeting of partner agencies where safeguarding data and any trends are shared and discussed and benchmarked against Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) national statistics where appropriate. The Delivery Group feeds through to the North Wales Safeguarding Board.

Members offered congratulations to the Service Manager- Specialist Service on her Caring in Welsh award received earlier in the year.

Members:

Resolved: *subject to the above observations to –*

- (i) receive and endorse the contents of the report;*
- (ii) acknowledge the importance of adopting a corporate approach to the safeguarding of adults at risk; and*
- (iii) the responsibility of the Council to view this as a key priority area.*

9 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Scrutiny Coordinator submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking members' review of the Committee's work programme. Members were informed the purpose of the report was to review the Committee's future work to ensure it included all items requested by members.

Included as appendix 2 to the report was the Scrutiny request form. The Scrutiny Coordinator explained that if members had an item they wished to discuss they should complete the request form. The form would then be reviewed by the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs Group who determined if the topic was suitable for Scrutiny or a different forum. The next Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs Group meeting was scheduled to take place on the 28th July 2022.

The current forward work programme (appendix 1) had been inherited from the previous committee. Included on the forward work programme (FWP) for the meeting on 15th September was the Community Safety Partnership's Annual Report on its activities. Members heard the Committee had been designated as the Council's Scrutiny Committee for crime and disorder and received the report on an annual basis. Also on the September FWP was a report on Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council, confirmation on their attendance was currently awaited. The

previous Committee had received a report and asked for an update report to be provided for members information. The Chair thought it would beneficial to receive an update report, members were in agreement.

The Cabinet forward work programme had been included at appendix 3 to the report for members information.

The Scrutiny Coordinator informed members the standing item Feedback from Committee Representatives on Council Boards and Groups had not been included on the agenda for the meeting as to date no representatives had been appointed to serve on any Boards or Groups had been agreed. The purpose of that agenda item was to allow members the opportunity to report back from meetings they attended.

Members heard that pre-covid the committee would hold a pre-meeting planning session ahead of formal committee meetings. These would allow members to highlight and discuss areas of concern they wished to raise at the meeting. The Scrutiny Coordinator suggested if members thought these would be beneficial a virtual meeting could be arranged for committee members a day or two before the meeting. Members thanked the Scrutiny Coordinator and thought a pre-meeting would be beneficial for members especially those new to Scrutiny.

In response to members comments the Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services confirmed that any public meetings for webcast had to be run from the Council Chamber in Ruthin as that was the only site that had the necessary equipment. He reminded members that the process adopted by Full Council had been for members and officers to attend meetings from a location that best suited their work load either remotely or in person. It was:

Resolved: subject to the above to –

- (i) confirm the Committee's draft forward work programme, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report; and***
- (ii) arrange a pre-meeting planning session for all Committee members ahead of the Committee's next meeting in September 2022 meeting.***

The meeting concluded 12.45pm



Report to	Partnerships Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting	15th September 2022
Lead Member / Officer	Councillor Rhys Thomas, Lead Member for Housing and Communities/ Sian Taylor, Community Safety Manager
Report author	Sian Taylor Community Safety Manager
Title	Community Safety Partnership Annual Update for 2021-2022

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1 The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) activity and performance report is based on the joint partnership priorities as identified in the North Wales audit of crime that is conducted annually. The Police and Crime Commissioner agrees the priorities and then draws up an action plan to be delivered locally that is monitored by the Safer North Wales Partnership Board. Locally we deliver this action plan by analysing what is happening in our local area and implementing local solutions.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee of the activity of the Joint Community Safety Partnership (CSP) from April 2021- March 2022.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1 That Partnerships Scrutiny Committee considers and comments on the contents of the attached performance and statistical update for 2021-2022.

4. Report details

- 4.1 CSP's were created in 1998 to develop and implement strategies and action plans to reduce crime and disorder. Each Authority had its own CSP. Some 14 years ago Conwy County Borough Council (CCBC) and Denbighshire County Council (DCC) merged their Community Safety teams into a single team, with CCBC being the main employer. Business Improvement and Modernisation take the lead for managing the Community Safety Partnership in Denbighshire.
- 4.2 The Community Safety Partnership meeting regime consists of:
- Strategic Steering Group – which meets three times a year
 - Anti-social Behaviour Tasking Group – held every month and attended by Senior Enforcement Officers and Housing
 - Task and finish groups as and when required
- 4.3 The three priority areas for 2021-2022 were as follows:

Priority area 1- Work in Partnership to Reduce Crime and Disorder

- Reduce victim based crime
- Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
- Support vulnerable people to prevent them becoming victims of crime
- Reduce repeat incidents of victim based crime and ASB for victims and perpetrators
- Work with the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) to manage the levels of repeat victims of Domestic Abuse
- Deal effectively with high risk cases of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
- Increase the confidence in reporting Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
- Increase awareness amongst young people of sexual violence

Priority area 2- Work in Partnership to Reduce reoffending- National/ Regional Priority.

- Adult reoffending (18+)
- Children and young people reoffending (12-17)

Priority area 3- Local priorities

- Reduce crime linked to licensed premises and taxis
- Improve confidence in reporting Antisocial Behaviour to the Local Authority
- Deal with any ASB hotspot areas in partnership with others
- Raise awareness locally of emerging crime issues

- 4.4 Each Priority area has a number of performance indicators assigned to it to monitor progress and crime trends. We review all of the statistics on a quarterly basis at the Strategic Steering Group and monthly at a local area and act on any emerging issues.
- 4.5 Please see attached the Community Safety Partnership performance and Statistical report for 2021-2022 (**Appendix 1**)

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities

- 5.1 Where relevant, the work of the Community Safety Partnership is aligned to the Community Resilience Priority.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

- 6.1 The partnership projects within the Action Plan are fully grant funded, however each service will allocate a certain amount of funding which will directly support the outcomes for reducing crime in Denbighshire.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

- 7.1 Not required.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

- 8.1 The CSP consulted on the 2021-2022 Activity Plans via all Responsible Authorities (Local Authority, North Wales Fire and Rescue Service, North Wales Police, Wales Probation and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB)).

8.2 The CSP reports annually to the Council's Partnerships Scrutiny Committee.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1 It is important that the cost of delivering the Community Safety Action Plan continues to be contained within the external funding and budgets available.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

10.1 That information coming into and out of the Local Authority is appropriately shared and actioned. This is now managed via a quarterly written community safety report to the Strategic Leadership Team and Lead Member and by also establishing a quarterly meeting of senior officers who attend the Regional Community Safety and Safeguarding Boards.

11. Power to make the decision

- Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Police Reform Act 2002
- Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000
- Section 19 and 20 of the Police and Justice Act
- Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009
- Section 7.15.2 of the Council's Constitution stipulates that Partnerships Scrutiny Committee as the Council's designated Crime and Disorder Committee has a duty to ensure that the Council's interests, resources and priorities are reflected in the work of the CSP, in accordance with ss19 and 20 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.

Contact Officer:

Sian Taylor - Community Safety Partnership Manager

Appendix 1



Community Safety Partnership

Performance report for 2021-2022 for Denbighshire

Overall Community Safety Plan Performance summary

Of the three main priority areas of work for the Community Safety Partnership at the end of March 2022 two were Acceptable and one Good. We have seen an increase in the numbers of youth offending, domestic abuse and stalking however we have seen reductions in all of the other types of crimes we are required to monitor when compared to the year before.

When comparing to last year one area has seen a change in status and that is due to an increase in youth offending. It has resulted in the Good status changing to Acceptable under reducing reoffending performance category.

Outcome and Performance summary

Here is a summary position for each Partnership Priority in 2021- March 2022.

Key

The Colours

Colour	Measure Status
Green	Excellent
Yellow	Good
Orange	Acceptable
Red	Priority for improvement

Priority	Activity Description	Performance Status	Project/activity Progress
Priority 1 Reduce Crime and Disorder in the area by working in partnership.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce victim based crime • Reduce Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) • Support vulnerable people to prevent them becoming victims of crime • Reduce repeat incidents of victim based crime and Antisocial Behaviour for victims and perpetrators • Deal effectively with high risk cases of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence • Increase the confidence in reporting Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence • Increase awareness amongst young people of sexual violence • Work with the Multi-agency risk assessment Conference to manage all levels of repeat victims of domestic abuse 	Acceptable	Good
Priority2 Reduce Reoffending	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult reoffending • Children and young people reoffending • Work collectively in preventing Organised crime 	Acceptable	Good
Priority 3 Local and Regional priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work collectively to manage antisocial behaviour and the response to antisocial behaviour locally. • Work collectively on Domestic abuse and violence locally 	Good	Good

Priority 1- Reduce Crime and Disorder in Denbighshire by working in partnership

Priority 1 performance status-
Acceptable

Overall the performance for the Partnership is **Acceptable** due to the continued increased numbers of victims of domestic abuse and stalking and harassment. The status in 2021-2022 remains the same as 2020-2021

Work of the partnership included;

- Raising awareness of victim based crimes via social media, attending events and making sure information is available on our websites.
- Home and business surveys carried out by crime reduction advisors and Police Community Support Officers to help prevent burglaries.
- We provided 32 homes with target hardening equipment and crime prevention advice (Locks/door bars etc.)
- We participated in the monthly Multiagency Risk Assessment Conference meeting called MARAC's online where victims of domestic abuse are discussed and where action plans for assistance are put in place.
- Denbighshire sent out numerous press releases on domestic abuse throughout the year led by our Lead Member and we changed the colour of the Pont y Ddraig Bridge to signify the support of the Local Authority on White Ribbon day on the 25th of November 2021. We also held a vigil with partners in the events arena in Rhyl to show our support to preventing violence. The International day is dedicated to raising awareness of domestic abuse and violence against women and girls. Denbighshire Leisure were very supportive of the event and enabled us to hold the vigil in the events arena free of charge.
- We promoted the 'Live fear free All Wales helpline' received 192 calls from Denbighshire residents. We have been promoting the helpline number at every opportunity.



Photograph shows the landmarks and the Vigil held 25th November 2021

**Priority 1 Project/activity update –
Good**

We, as a Partnership continued with the work identified in our work plan for 2021-2022. We also added additional multi agency groups to look at the disruption of organised crime by utilising the individual powers in each organisation. This group helps to provide the police with a rich picture of what's going on with individuals identified as being involved with organised crime.

Regional meetings continued discussing Modern Day Slavery, County Lines, Integrated Offender Management, Domestic abuse and substance misuse via the Area Planning Board meetings. There have also been a number of regional operational groups established to help carry forward specific pieces of work. For example preventing terrorism operational group, modern day slavery operational group to name a couple.

Many things which require us to do face to face engagement we managed to do utilising online technology in the first half of the year and attending events in person once they started again later in the year.

Priority 2- Reducing reoffending

Priority 2 performance status-
Acceptable

Overall the performance for the partnership is **Acceptable**

Denbighshire	Fiscal Year (YTD)		Change (YTD)
	2020/21	2021/22	
Repeat offenders (Aged 18 and over)	223	189	-15.2%
Repeat offenders (Aged 17 and under)	14	27	92.9%

In 2021-2022 we have seen reductions in adult offending and an increase in youth offending hence the status being acceptable.

The work of the partnership is as follows:

- Local Integrated offender management programmes continues remotely initially and have managed adult offender and those young people transitioning between childhood and adulthood.
- We continued to promote community resolutions and restorative justice when solving minor issues, some of this work was online and the victims of crime found
- We attended the quarterly multiagency online Prevent and Deter meetings where we discuss those young people coming to the attention of the Police and Youth Justice Service so that a plan of support can be put in place to help prevent further offending.
- We have attended 5 restorative justice conferences where we have acted as the critical friend in the process.
- We are currently working in partnership to identify repeat antisocial behaviour (ASB) youth offenders as this is one of the common denominators in issues we have with ASB in communities.
- We have been working closely with the Youth Justice Service and the Youth services in Denbighshire to access some deterrents for young people and some diversionary activities when youth antisocial behaviour issues have been raised with us as a partnership as well as sharing intelligence with the police so that repeat offenders are targeted.
- We have established a dedicated forum in Rhyl to look at crime and disorder matters. This group has been established as there are a number of issues in the area that require a single coordination point.

**Priority 2 Project /activity update-
Good**

The Community Safety Partnership continued to support the multiagency attendance at the Integrated Offender Management programme and assisting with the actions of that programme. We will continue to assist with the programme, which will also address Organised Crime Groups (OCG's) and County Lines work.

We are now trying more targeted work with young offenders as the numbers are relatively small and we think we can have an impact of diverting the offending behaviour. This work will be ongoing.

Priority 3- Local Priorities

Priority 3 performance status- Good

Overall performance of the partnership is **Good**

In 2020-2021 we have seen a slight increase in the number of reports of antisocial behaviour and repeat victims of ASB. The work of the partnership was as follows:

- Establishing local multiagency groups in Denbighshire to manage repeat incidents of Antisocial Behaviour
- Promoting the use of community resolutions to resolve repeat incidents of antisocial behaviour
- Using, when appropriate community protection notices / Public Space Protection Orders
- Control of licenced premises and enforcement and monitoring of taxi licences undertaken by the licensing department. All of this work was slightly different when lockdown first hit.
- Operations targeting Car washes under modern day slavery action plans (this work continued in March 2022)
- Sharing information about online fraud utilising National campaigns especially given the reliance on online platforms for everything.
- Community Tension Monitoring this included hate crime monitoring with the assistance of the Regional cohesion team
- Monitoring of protests and vigils
- Applying for additional third sector funding for additional domestic abuse services locally.

Priority 3 Project/activity update- Good

We will continue to support the monthly Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) tasking meeting which monitors repeat incidents of ASB and provides a multi-agency response to issues raised as well as taking part in restorative justice conferences and promoting community resolutions and mediation.

We participated in raising awareness of Domestic Abuse, Modern Slavery and County Lines locally, the direction for this work comes from the newly established Regional Vulnerability and Exploitation board and the operational subgroups.

Internally the corporate priority on domestic abuse was split into specific work areas including; Communications internally and externally, training and early intervention. This work complimented the work of the Regional Vulnerabilities Board and the regional domestic abuse team.

Additional police activity was carried out in the area of the Night Time economy specifically looking at violence against women and girls

Ask Angela schemes still running in public houses in Denbighshire (where people can ask bar staff for help if they feel threatened or uncomfortable in anyway and they will be given a way out and any assistance required)

A scheme in Conwy and Denbighshire was established where the consulting rooms in all pharmacies can be used as a safe space.

·
5k Welsh Government Regional Communication Grant for Domestic abuse spent on Live Fear Free merchandise – lip balms, hand sanitisers and pens –left in GP practices and pharmacies in rural/coastal areas. These were also sent to North Wales Police for distribution during Christmas campaigns in licensed premises. It is hoped that people requiring assistance will see/use the free telephone number on innocuous products. Products specially chosen as they are everyday products and easy to conceal.

Healthy relationships sessions held in schools and youth clubs. This is aimed at educating young people on what is a normal way to behave and what isn't.

£20k Revenue Funding Grants awarded for the Regional Caring Dad's perpetrator programme and also a support worker to work with mothers and children of those attending programme. There is a greater push regionally and nationally to focus some resources on perpetrators and preventing the behaviour in the first instance.

£252k Capital funding secured from the Welsh Government to provide three additional disbursed units for victims of domestic abuse with additional complex needs (particularly focussed on substance misuse and mental health issues)

Regional Team working with Local Authorities to reinvigorate Whole School Approach group to map current delivery of interventions in schools and identify gaps, focussing on the need to challenge gender norms and stereotypes and include bystander interventions. Now working with School Beat to coordinate delivery in schools.

Child workers across the region delivering 1-2-1 support in schools, other safe locations and on zoom.

Specialist Domestic Abuse/Sexual violence services are all trained in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) and a number offer ACE Recovery as part of their suite of services. All specialist services in North Wales work in a trauma informed, victim focused way.

Crime Statistics from 2019-2020 and 2020 - March 2022

Denbighshire - Crime & Incident Data: 01/04/2021 – 31/03/2021	Fiscal Year (YTD)			Change (YTD)
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	
All Victim Based Crime	9,338	7,791	10,645	36.6%
Violence with injury	1,257	940	1,321	40.5%
Violence without injury	2,193	1,831	2,248	22.8%
Stalking & Harassment	1,260	1,480	1,975	33.4%
Sexual offences	431	316	508	60.8%
Burglary Residential	332	232	268	15.5%
Burglary - Business and Community	168	84	114	35.7%
Robbery	61	27	45	66.7%
Vehicle Crime	400	123	182	48.0%
Theft and Handling	1,541	1,029	1,430	39.0%
Criminal Damage & Arson	1,191	852	1,111	30.4%
Domestic Crime	1,822	2,065	2,516	21.8%
Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)	2,385	2,498	2,707	8.4%

In 7 of the 13 crime and incident categories, 2021/22 recorded the highest Year to Date (YTD) volumes in Denbighshire. The remaining 6 categories were all at their highest level in 2019/20 and are all acquisitive crime related, plus *Criminal Damage & Arson*.

In 10 of the 13 categories, 2020/21 recorded the lowest YTD volumes. As has previously been reported, COVID-19 lockdown's this time last year significantly affected volumes of crime, in particular violence offences and acquisitive crime.

Conwy's figures- comparison for Members as previously requested

Conwy - Crime & Incident Data: 01/04/2021 – 31/03/2021	Fiscal Year (YTD)			Change (YTD)
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	
All Victim Based Crime	9,076	8,675	10,748	23.9%
Violence with injury	1,224	1,054	1,337	26.9%
Violence without injury	2,074	1,865	2,325	24.7%
Stalking & Harassment	1,323	1,708	2,059	20.6%
Sexual offences	444	417	483	15.8%
Burglary Residential	373	185	238	28.6%
Burglary - Business and Community	215	92	119	29.3%
Robbery	45	30	29	-3.3%
Vehicle Crime	359	193	234	21.2%
Theft and Handling	1,511	1,092	1,280	17.2%
Criminal Damage & Arson	1,332	1,089	1,346	23.6%
Domestic Crime	1,961	2,266	2,642	16.6%
Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)	3,438	3,433	3,458	0.7%

In 8 of the 13 crime and incident categories, 2021/22 recorded the highest YTD volumes in Conwy. The remaining 5 categories were all at their highest level in 2019/20 and are all acquisitive crime related.

In 10 of the 13 categories, 2020/21 recorded the lowest YTD volumes. As has previously been reported, COVID-19 lockdown's this time last year significantly affected volumes of crime, in particular violence offences and acquisitive crime.

Crime Category explanation

Violence Offences

Violence against the person offences have increased fairly significantly in both Conwy and Denbighshire at the end of Q4 2021/22, compared to the same period last year.

The closure of the night-time economy due to COVID-19 restrictions for the majority of 2020/21 had a significant impact on volumes of violent crimes. We are now seeing those volumes return to pre-COVID levels since the re-opening of the hospitality sector.

Stalking & Harassment

Year-on-year increases in volume have been seen in both counties. In April 2020, the Home Office made changes to the category of Stalking & Harassment and included a number of additional offence types within it, such as coercive and controlling behaviour. This, along with more scrutiny around secondary/additional crimes has led to increases across the force, and nationally, in this category.

Sexual Offences

The Q2 2021/22 recorded level of Sexual Offences in Conwy and Denbighshire has increased in comparison to 2020/21. The data shows that during 2020/21, there was a decrease in both counties in comparison to pre and post COVID. It should also be noted that there can be significant fluctuations in reported offences from week to week, partly due to reporting of historic offences.

Acquisitive Crime

(Acquisitive crime includes the categories *Burglary Residential, Burglary Business & Community, Robbery, Vehicle Crime and Theft & Handling*)

Burglary Residential offences fell sharply in 2020/21. This was no doubt due to the huge increase in people working from home or being furloughed due to the pandemic, with dwellings rarely being left unoccupied. Whilst there has been an increase in volumes in both counties in 2021/22, they are still well below pre-COVID volumes.

The 4 other categories of acquisitive crime all saw decreases in 2020/21, again caused by the effects of COVID-19 restrictions; people weren't using their cars as often and leaving them in public places, business' and non-essential retail were closed down and restrictions on movement didn't allow for people to just be 'out and about' without valid reason. These 4 categories have all seen increases in the first half of 2021/22, however the volumes in both counties are still much lower than the pre-pandemic volumes.

Criminal Damage & Arson

Due to the nature of these offences, it is unsurprising that volumes fell in 2020/21, whilst lockdown restrictions were in place. Inevitably, as restrictions have been eased there are increases this year in both counties and volumes have returned to 2019/20 levels.

Domestic Crime

There have been year-on-year increases in the volume of domestic crimes in both counties between 2019/20 - 2021/22. Violence offences and Stalking & Harassment, recorded as domestic related, have seen sharp increases this year in both counties. This trend has been seen across the force area.

It should be noted that Domestic Crimes, recorded as additional/secondary crimes as required by the Home Office, increased by over 30% in Conwy and over 35% in Denbighshire in 2021/22.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

ASB in Denbighshire increased in 2021/22, whilst Conwy also saw a slight increase. The volumes in both counties are higher than the pre-pandemic volumes.

Nationally there has been a marked increase in youth related ASB since the end of lockdown and similar increases have been noted in the monthly ASB multi-agency tasking groups across North Wales.

Repeat victims of ASB, repeat locations where ASB is occurring and high risk vulnerable victims are referred for review to monthly multi-agency tasking groups.

Work to do in Denbighshire 2022-2023

As you can see above there is a great deal of work to be done. We will continue to work regionally to access additional funding for third sector domestic abuse services and to make sure the support services we have are as robust as they can be to cope with the increases we are seeing.

We will continue with our problem solving approach to antisocial behaviour. It would appear from the number of multiagency meetings we have arranged and participated in that this is the best way to deal with repeat incidents is to bring everyone together and update those suffering from ASB on a regular basis to ensure they are consulted and updated.

Youth ASB has been a focus over the last 12 months and will continue to be so. We are working collectively to identify those who are continuously causing issue in our communities.

We are anticipating a rise in all crime areas over the next year due to socio-economic issues communities are facing. There are discussions about preventing crimes ongoing regionally, such as campaigns about securing properties and businesses across the County.

We will continue assisting the Rural crime Team in the police with the promotion of crime prevention measures and the use of smartwater a bespoke DNA address identification liquid for high value farm items such as quad bikes and target hardening measures. As we enter a period of economic uncertainty history shows us these types of crimes will increase as these items are very valuable and sort after on the black market.



Report to	Partnerships Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting	15 September 2022
Lead Officer	Rhian Evans, Scrutiny Co-ordinator
Report author	Rhian Evans, Scrutiny Co-ordinator
Title	Scrutiny Work Programme

1. What is the report about?

The report seeks Partnerships Scrutiny Committee to review its draft forward work programme (see Appendix 1). As part of its review the Committee is asked to reflect on the implications of the focus on business critical operations during the emergency phase of the COVID -19 pandemic and the work underway under the recovery phase, whilst also prioritising matters which the Committee deems important to scrutinise.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To seek the Committee to review and agree on its programme of future work, and to update members on relevant issues.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That the Committee

- 3.1 considers the information provided and approves, revises or amends its forward work programme as it deems appropriate;
- 3.2 appoints a representative to serve on the Bwthyn y Ddôl Project Board; and
- 3.3 determines whether any key messages or themes from the current meeting should be publicised via the press and/or social media.

4. Report details

- 4.1 Section 7 of Denbighshire County Council's Constitution sets out each Scrutiny Committee's terms of reference, functions and membership, as well as the rules of procedure and debate.
- 4.2 The Constitution stipulates that the Council's scrutiny committees must set, and regularly review, a programme for their future work. By reviewing and prioritising issues, members are able to ensure that the work programme delivers a member-led agenda.
- 4.3 For a number of years it has been an adopted practice in Denbighshire for scrutiny committees to limit the number of reports considered at any one meeting to a maximum of four plus the Committee's own work programme report. The aim of this approach is to facilitate detailed and effective debate on each topic.
- 4.4 In recent years the Welsh Government (WG) and Audit Wales (AW) have highlighted the need to strengthen scrutiny's role across local government and public services in Wales, including utilising scrutiny as a means of engaging with residents and service-users. From now on scrutiny will be expected to engage better and more frequently with the public with a view to securing better decisions which ultimately lead to better outcomes for citizens. AW will measure scrutiny's effectiveness in fulfilling these expectations.
- 4.5 Having regard to the national vision for scrutiny whilst at the same time focussing on local priorities, the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group (SCVCG) recommended that the Council's scrutiny committees should, when deciding on their work programmes, focus on the following key areas:
- budget savings;
 - achievement of the Corporate Plan objectives (with particular emphasis on their deliverability during a period of financial austerity);
 - any other items agreed by the Scrutiny Committee (or the SCVCG) as high priority (based on the PAPER test criteria – see reverse side of the 'Member Proposal Form' at Appendix 2);

- Urgent, unforeseen or high priority issues; and
- Supporting the Council's recovery work in relation to the effects of the COVID-19 crisis on Council services, the local economy and the county's communities

4.6 Scrutiny Proposal Forms

As mentioned in paragraph 4.2 above the Council's Constitution requires scrutiny committees to prepare and keep under review a programme for their future work. To assist the process of prioritising reports, if officers are of the view that a subject merits time for discussion on Scrutiny's business agenda they have to submit a formal request to the SCVCG seeking Scrutiny to consider a report on that topic. This is done via the submission of a 'proposal form' which clarifies the purpose, importance and potential outcomes of suggested subjects.

- 4.7 With a view to making better use of scrutiny's time by focussing committees' resources on detailed examination of subjects, adding value through the decision-making process and securing better outcomes for residents, the SCVCG decided that members, as well as officers, should complete 'scrutiny proposal forms' outlining the reasons why they think a particular subject would benefit from scrutiny's input. A copy of the 'member's proposal form' can be seen at Appendix 2. The reverse side of this form contains a flowchart listing questions which members should consider when proposing an item for scrutiny, and which committees should ask when determining a topic's suitability for inclusion on a scrutiny forward work programme. If, having followed this process, a topic is not deemed suitable for formal examination by a scrutiny committee, alternative channels for sharing the information or examining the matter can be considered e.g. the provision of an 'information report', or if the matter is of a very local nature examination by the relevant Member Area Group (MAG). No items should be included on a forward work programme without a 'scrutiny proposal form' being completed and accepted for inclusion by the Committee or the SCVCG. Assistance with their completion is available from the Scrutiny Co-ordinator.

Cabinet Forward Work Programme

- 4.8 When determining their programme of future work it is useful for scrutiny committees to have regard to Cabinet's scheduled programme of work. For this purpose, a copy of the Cabinet's forward work programme is attached at Appendix 3.

Progress on Committee Resolutions

- 4.9 A table summarising recent Committee resolutions and advising members on progress with their implementation is attached at Appendix 4 to this report.

Representative to serve on the Project Board for Bwthyn y Ddôl

- 4.10 Bwthyn y Ddôl is a collaborative project between Conwy County Borough Council (CCBC), Denbighshire County Council (DCC) and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) the purpose of which is to develop a sub-regional residential children's assessment centre to serve both Conwy and Denbighshire. The aim of the proposed centre will be to deliver a coordinated solution for assessing the needs of children about to enter care, evaluating their care needs and pathway options. A Project Board has been established to oversee the delivery of this collaborative service. This Board meets on a regular basis. Cabinet Lead Members from both local authorities serve on this Board along with other stakeholders. Both local authorities also have a scrutiny representative each serving on the Board. The Committee is therefore asked to nominate a Committee representative to serve on the Project Board.

5. Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group

- 5.1 Under the Council's scrutiny arrangements, the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group (SCVCG) performs the role of a coordinating committee. The Group held its first meeting of the new Council term on 28 July 2022.
- 5.2 A number of requests for items to be scrutinised were considered by the Group during the above meeting. Following consideration of a request in relation to the progress made with the North Denbighshire Community Hospital Project, the Group has extended an invitation to representatives from the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) to attend a meeting of this Committee to discuss the matter

in detail. Confirmation has been received that Health Board representatives will attend the Committee's meeting on 15 December for a discussion on the project.

- 5.3 The Group is scheduled to hold its next meeting on 8 September. Consequently, any business which arises at that meeting which affects the work of this Committee will be reported verbally at the meeting on 15 September.

6. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

Effective scrutiny will assist the Council to deliver its corporate priorities in line with community needs and residents' wishes. Continual development and review of a coordinated work programme will assist the Council to deliver its corporate priorities, improve outcomes for residents whilst also managing austere budget and resource pressures.

7. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

Services may need to allocate officer time to assist the Committee with the activities identified in the forward work programme, and with any actions that may result following consideration of those items.

8. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

A Well-being Impact Assessment has not been undertaken in relation to the purpose or contents of this report. However, Scrutiny's through it work in examining service delivery, policies, procedures and proposals will consider their impact or potential impact on the sustainable development principle and the well-being goals stipulated in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

9. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

None required for this report. However, the report itself and the consideration of the forward work programme represent a consultation process with the Committee with respect to its programme of future work.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

No risks have been identified with respect to the consideration of the Committee's forward work programme. However, by regularly reviewing its forward work programme the Committee can ensure that areas of risk are considered and examined as and when they are identified, and recommendations are made with a view to addressing those risks.

11. Power to make the decision

- 11.1 Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000.
- 11.2 Section 7.11 of the Council's Constitution stipulates that scrutiny committees and/or the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group will be responsible for setting their own work programmes, taking into account the wishes of Members of the Committee who are not members of the largest political group on the Council.

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Note: Items entered in italics have not been approved for submission by the Committee. Such reports are listed here for information, pending formal approval.

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
27 October Representatives from NWP & BCUHB to be invited to attend	Cllr. Elen Heaton	1.	Partnership Working in Relation to Mental Health	To examine the working relationships and communication channels between the Council's Social Care Services, North Wales Police and the Health Board in relation to Mental Health matters	An understanding of the working arrangements and communication channels between all partners with a view to identifying any gaps and recommending ways to strengthen partnership working in this area	Nicola Stubbins/Ann Lloyd/David Soley/NWP/BCUHB	By SCVCG January 2022
	Cllr. Elen Heaton	2.	North Wales Regional Partnership Board Annual Report 2021/22	To provide an overview of the Regional Partnership Board's activities during 2021/220 and its priority areas for 2022/23	Ensure that the Board is working effectively to support the delivery seamless health, social care and well-being services for Denbighshire residents and the wider North Wales region	Nicola Stubbins/Catrin Roberts	December 2021
	Cllr. Barry Mellor	3.	Proposed Retendering of	To review the effectiveness of the	Pre-decision to scrutiny with a view	Tony Ward/Tara Dumas	March 2022

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
		DCC's Environmental Enforcement Contract	existing contract and the proposed specification of the new contract	to making recommendations to the decision-maker in relation to the specification for the new tender		
15 December	Cllr. Elen Heaton	1. North Denbighshire Community Hospital Project	To consider the current position with regards to the project's delivery, including potential barriers, any proposed changes to the original plans, the expected timescale for various phases involved with its delivery	An understanding of current timescales and project brief to support the Council to plan its services for residents across the county	BCUHB	By SCVCG July 2022
9 February 2023						
30 March						
18 May						
6 July	Leader (NWEAB Programme Office reps also to attend)	1. North Wales Economic Ambition Board Annual Report 2022/23	To consider the Board's Quarter4/Annual Report on its work and progress during 2022/23	To ensure that the Board delivers its priorities and projects in line with the stipulations and conditions laid out	NWEAB/Emlyn Jones	July 2022

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
					between the Board and the UK & Welsh Governments		
	Cllr. Elen Heaton	2.	Annual Report on Adult Safeguarding 2022/23	To consider the annual report on adult safeguarding, and information in place to meet the statutory requirements of the Social Services and Well-being Act 2014 and an evaluation of the financial and resource impact of the Supreme Court's 2014 Judgement on deprivation of liberty on the Service and its work (data to include actual numbers in each category as well as % figures and the actual number of allegations proven)	An evaluation of whether the Authority is meeting its statutory duty with respect to adult safeguarding and has sufficient resources to undertake this work along with the additional work in the wake of the Supreme Court's judgement	David Soley/Alaw Pierce/Nerys Tompsett	June 2022
14 September							
26 October							

Meeting	Lead Member(s)	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
14 December						

Future Issues

Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Expected Outcomes	Author	Date Entered
Update following conclusion of inquiry undertaken by the National Crime Agency in to historic abuse in North Wales Children's Care Homes <i>(autumn 2022)</i>	To update the Committee of the outcome of the National Crime Agency (NCA) investigation in to the abuse of children in the care of the former Clwyd County Council, and to determine whether any procedures require revision.	Determination of whether any of the Council's safeguarding policies and procedures need to be revised in light of the NCA's findings	Nicola Stubbins	November 2012

For future years

<i>Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act 2019 Note: information on the Act is still awaited (further delayed due to COVID – 19 and WG decision in relation to Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS)). Not now expected to be implemented before the spring of 2023.</i>	<i>To review the content of the Act and associated statutory regulations and code of practice (expected to be published in April 2020).</i>	<i>To review the implications for the Council and residents.</i>	Ann Lloyd/David Soley	<i>December 2019 (rescheduled April 2020 due to COVID-19) – check with lead officer in the spring of 2023 whether available</i>

Information/Consultation Reports

Information / Consultation	Item (description / title)	Purpose of report	Author	Date Entered
Information Report (for circulation September 2022)	Quarterly Monitoring of External Care Providers	To provide details of the regular monitoring of external care service providers commissioned by the council for social care services, identifying any escalating concerns or other areas of concern	Katie Newe/Liana Duffy/Zoe Bradley-Ashcroft	By SCVCG 2018
INFORMATION REPORT (September 2022)	Collaborative Procurement Service's Annual Report	To receive information on the collaborative Service's activity and performance against targets set out in the Procurement Strategy 2019/20 & 2020/21	Gary Williams/Lisa Jones	By SCVCG March 2020 rescheduled February 2022
INFORMATION REPORT (for circulation in Sept (Q1), Nov/Dec (Q2) & February (Q3) each year) Sept & Nov 2022 & Feb 2023	North Wales Economic Ambition Board	To provide information on the Board's performance and progress in delivering its priorities and projects in line with the stipulations and conditions laid out between the Board and the UK & Welsh Governments	NWEAB/Emlyn Jones	December 2021

Updated 25/08/2022 – RhE

Note for officers – Committee Report Deadlines

Meeting	Deadline	Meeting	Deadline	Meeting	Deadline
27 October	13 October	15 December	1 December	9 February 2023	26 January 2023

Appendix 2

Member Proposal Form for Scrutiny Forward Work Programme	
NAME OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	
TIMESCALE FOR CONSIDERATION	
TOPIC	
What needs to be scrutinised (and why)?	
Is the matter one of concern to residents/local businesses?	YES/NO
Can Scrutiny influence and change things? (if 'yes' please state how you think scrutiny can influence or change things)	YES/NO
Does the matter relate to an underperforming service or area?	YES/NO
Does the matter affect a large number of residents or a large geographical area of the County (if 'yes' please give an indication of the size of the affected group or area)	YES/NO
Is the matter linked to the Council's Corporate priorities (if 'yes' please state which priority/priorities)	YES/NO
To your knowledge is anyone else looking at this matter? (If 'yes', please say who is looking at it)	YES/NO
If the topic is accepted for scrutiny who would you want to invite to attend e.g. Lead Member, officers, external experts, service-users?	
Name of Councillor/Co-opted Member	
Date	

Consideration of a topic's suitability for scrutiny

Proposal Form/Request received

(careful consideration given to reasons for request)



Does it stand up to the PAPER test?

- **Public interest** – is the matter of concern to residents?
- **Ability to have an impact** – can Scrutiny influence and change things?
- **Performance** – is it an underperforming area or service?
- **Extent** – does it affect a large number of residents or a large geographic area?
- **Replication** – is anyone else looking at it?

YES

NO

No further action required by
scrutiny committee. Refer
elsewhere or request
information report?

- Determine the desired outcome(s)
- Decide on the scope and extent of the scrutiny work required and the most appropriate method to undertake it (i.e. committee report, task and finish group inquiry, or link member etc.)
- If task and finish route chosen, determine the timescale for any inquiry, who will be involved, research requirements, expert advice and witnesses required, reporting arrangements etc.

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
20 Sept	1	Annual Treasury Management Report 2021-22	To give a review of the Treasury Management activities over the previous financial year (2021-22)	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer Steve Gadd Report Author Rhys Ifor Jones
	2	Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn	To review the findings of the consultation and to consider the publishing of the statutory notice	Tbc	Cllr Gill German Geraint Davies / James Curran
	3	North Wales Market Stability Report 2022	To provide an overview of the Market Stability Report, which has been produced as a requirement of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and assesses the sufficiency of care and support in meeting the needs and demands as set out in the Population Needs Assessment and the stability of the market for regulated services providing care and support	Tbc	Cllrs Elen Heaton and Gill German Lead Officers Nicola Stubbins / Ann Lloyd / Rhiain Morrile
	4	Creation of a Nutrient Management Board for the	To provide an update on the proposal to create a Nutrient	Yes	Cllr Barry Mellor Lead Officer Emlyn Jones

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
	River Dee catchment area		Management Board and agree member representation on the Board		Report Author Angela Loftus
	5 Council Housing Major External Repairs – Decarbonisation Works Rhydwen Drive Phase 2		To award the contract for the continuation of the decarbonisation works along the street without losing continuity	Yes	Cllr Rhys Thomas Lead Officer David Lorey Report Author Katrina Allen
	6 Finance Report		To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author Steve Gadd
	7 Items from Scrutiny Committees		To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Lead Officer – Scrutiny Coordinator
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18 Oct	1	Central Rhyl Coastal Defence Scheme and Central Prestatyn Coastal Defence Scheme	To seek endorsement to proceed with the schemes	Yes	Cllr Barry Mellor Lead Officer Tony Ward
	2	District Heating System Proposal Betws Gwerfil Goch	To present the outcome of the consultation and engagement exercise DCC have carried out with the owner occupiers and council tenants of Betws GG, with regard to a district heating	Tbc	Cllr Rhys Thomas Lead Officer David Lorey Report Author Mark Cassidy

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
			system proposal.		
	3	Queen's Market: Operator Contract Award	Following the culmination of the procurement process to appoint an operator for the Queen's Market in Rhyl, approval is sought from Cabinet to award a contract to the preferred tenderer	Yes	Cllr Jason McLellan Lead Officer Emlyn Jones Report Author Russ Vaughan
	4	Review of Cabinet Decision relating to the Proposed Scheme of Delegated Decision Making for Land Acquisition (Freehold and Leasehold) for Carbon Sequestration and Ecological Improvement Purposes	To reconsider Cabinet's original decision, with a view to expediting the decision making process for purchasing land, taking into account the Scrutiny Committee's recommendations thereon	Yes	Cllr Barry Mellor Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Report Author Jane Hodgson
	5	Finance Report	To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author Steve Gadd
	6	Items from Scrutiny Committees	To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Lead Officer – Scrutiny Coordinator
22 Nov	1	Council Performance Update – July to September	To consider the Council's performance in delivering	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer Nicola Kneale

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
			against the council's strategic plan and services		Report Author Iolo McGregor
	2 Temporary Accommodation Support Project		To seek Cabinet approval to award the contract for the project	Yes	Cllr Rhys Thomas Lead Officer Ann Lloyd Report Author Hayley Jones
	3 Draft Sustainable Transport Plan		To seek Cabinet approval of the draft Sustainable Transport Plan for consultation	Yes	Cllr Barry Mellor Lead Officer/Report Author Mike Jones
	4 Finance Report		To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author Steve Gadd
	5 Items from Scrutiny Committees		To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Lead Officer – Scrutiny Coordinator
13 Dec	1	Housing Rent Setting & Housing Revenue and Capital Budgets 2023/24	To seek approval for the proposed annual rent increase for council housing and to approve the Housing Revenue Account Capital and Revenue Budgets for 2023/24 and Housing Stock Business Plan	Yes	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author Geoff Davies
	2	Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn	To consider the final OBC /	Tbc	Cllr Gill German

Cabinet Forward Work Plan

Meeting	Item (description / title)		Purpose of report	Cabinet Decision required (yes/no)	Author – Lead member and contact officer
			FBC for the proposed new building for Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn		Lead Officer Geraint Davies Report Author James Curran
3	Finance Report		To update Cabinet on the current financial position of the Council	Tbc	Cllr Gwyneth Ellis Lead Officer/Report Author Steve Gadd
4	Items from Scrutiny Committees		To consider any issues raised by Scrutiny for Cabinet's attention	Tbc	Lead Officer – Scrutiny Coordinator

Note for officers – Cabinet Report Deadlines

Meeting	Deadline	Meeting	Deadline	Meeting	Deadline
20 September	6 September	18 October	4 October	22 November	8 November

Updated 23/08/2022 – KEJ

Cabinet Forward Work Programme.doc

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Appendix 4

Progress with Committee Resolutions

Date of Meeting	Item number and title	Resolution	Progress
7 July 2022	6. North Wales Economic Ambition Board Annual Report 2121/22	<u>Resolved:</u> <i>subject to the above observations along with the answers and assurances received during the course of the discussion, to receive the North Wales Economic Ambition Board's Quarter 4 Performance Report 2021/22 and its Annual Report for 2021/22.</i>	Lead Member, North Wales Economic Ambition Board officers and Council officers informed of the Committee's resolution.
	7. Homelessness and Housing Support Services	<u>Resolved:</u> <i>subject to the above comments –</i> (i) <i>that it was assured the implementation of the multi-disciplinary homelessness service and cross-service Corporate approach was in line with the Welsh Government's vision of homelessness and housing support, and that it was contributing to the Homelessness Prevention Service's aim to ensure that everyone was safeguarded and supported to live in homes that met their needs; and</i> (ii) <i>that having reviewed the significant progress made in addressing the audit actions it was now satisfied that any further update reports on the progress of the improvement plan be submitted from thereon in to the Governance and Audit Committee.</i>	Lead Member and relevant officers advised of the Committee's recommendations.

	8. Annual Report on Safeguarding Adults in Denbighshire	<p><u>Resolved:</u> <i>subject to the above observations to –</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>(i) receive and endorse the contents of the report;</i> <i>(ii) acknowledge the importance of adopting a corporate approach to the safeguarding of adults at risk; and</i> <i>(iii) the responsibility of the Council to view this as a key priority area.</i> 	Lead Members and officers advised of the Committee's resolutions.
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