



Complete Agenda

Democratic Services
Swyddfa'r Cyngor
CAERNARFON
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Meeting

CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date and Time

10.30 am, THURSDAY, 3RD APRIL, 2025

NOTE : A BRIEFING SESSION WILL BE HELD FOR MEMBERS AT 10:00AM

Location

**Hybrid – Siambr Hywel Dda, Council Offices, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 1SH
and Zoom**

*** NOTE**

This meeting will be webcast

https://gwynedd.public-i.tv/core//en_GB/portal/home

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(DISTRIBUTED 26/03/25)

CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP (16)

Plaid Cymru (10)

Councillors

Menna Baines
Linda Morgan
Meryl Roberts
Jina Gwyrfai
Sian Williams

Rheinallt Puw
Gwynfor Owen
Einir Wyn Williams
John Pughe
Berwyn Parry Jones

Independent (5)

Councillors

Elwyn Jones
Eryl Jones-Williams
Angela Russell

Anwen J. Davies
Beth Lawton

Labour/Liberal (1)

Councillor
Gareth Coj Parry

Ex-officio Members

Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council

Other Invited Members

Councillor Dilwyn Morgan
Councillor Menna Trenholme
Councillor Paul John Rowlinson

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declarations of personal interest.

3. URGENT BUSINESS

To note any items that are a matter of urgency in the view of the Chairman for consideration.

4. MINUTES

4 - 12

The Chairman shall propose that the minutes of the meetings of this committee held on the 20th February 2025 be signed as a true record.

5. HOUSING ACTION PLAN

13 - 24

To consider the report.

6. GWYNEDD MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

25 - 31

To consider the report.

7. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE AUTISM TEAM'S WORK PROGRAMME

32 - 39

To consider the report.

8. MID WALES JOINT COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH AND CARE SCRUTINY GROUP

40 - 41

To elect a member to represent the Scrutiny Committee on the Mid Wales Joint Committee for Health and Care Scrutiny Group.

CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 20/02/25

Attendance:

COUNCILLORS:

Beth Lawton (Chair), Jina Gwyrfaï, Elwyn Jones, Linda Ann Jones, Eryl Jones-Williams, Linda Morgan, Meryl Roberts, Sian Williams, Rheinallt Puw, Gwynfor Owen and Einir Wyn Williams.

Officers present:

Llywela Haf Owain (Senior Language and Scrutiny Adviser), Iwan Edwards (Democracy Services Officer) and Sioned Mai Jones (Democracy Team Leader).

Also in attendance:

Councillor Dilwyn Morgan (Cabinet Member - Adults, Health and Well-being) and Aled Davies (Head of Adults, Health and Well-being Department).

Present for item 6:

Dylan Owen (Statutory Director of Social Services), Mannon Emyr Trappe (Assistant Head of Safeguarding, Quality Assurance, Mental Health and Community Safety), Alun Gwilym Williams (Assistant Head of Business), Mari Wynne Jones (Assistant Head of Learning Disabilities), Sian Edith Jones (Assistant Head of Adult Services), Rhion Glyn (Assistant Head of Adults, Health and Well-being), Carwyn Rees (Audit Wales) and Sian Roberts (Care Inspectorate Wales).

Present for item 7:

Teresa Owen (Health Board), Dyfed Edwards (Health Board) and Ffion Johnstone (Health Board).

1. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Resolved to elect Councillor Elwyn Jones as Vice-chair of the Care Scrutiny Committee for 2024/25.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Menna Baines, Angela Russell, Gareth Coj Parry and Anwen Jane Davies.

3. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

A declaration of personal interest was received from Councillor Rheinallt Puw on item 7, specifically the discussion on Mental Health. He withdrew from the meeting for this discussion only. The interest was not prejudicial to the rest of the discussion.

4. URGENT ITEMS

None to note.

5. MINUTES

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting of this committee held on 21 November 2024 as a true record.

6. CARE INSPECTORATE WALES AND WALES AUDIT OFFICE - JOINT INSPECTION (OCTOBER 2024)

A report was presented by the Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Well-being, highlighting the full attendance of the Adults Department management team at today's meeting. They were thanked for their time, stating that their attendance demonstrated the Department's strength and commitment to its responsibilities. It was explained that a joint inspection of the services in the Adults Department was conducted by Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) and the Wales Audit Office (WAO) in October 2024. It was therefore thought appropriate to submit both reports to the Care Scrutiny Committee within the same item.

It was added that during the same period, an inspection of the Department's work commissioned by the Department through the WLGA had been carried out and also the work on the Llechen Lân scheme. It was stated that there was an intention to bring the findings of all the inspections together and create a single detailed action plan for the Department. It was explained that this plan would in time be submitted to the Care Scrutiny Committee in order to receive its input, which was always appreciated by the Department.

CIW and WAO officers were thanked for their continued collaboration with the Adults Department and appreciation was expressed for their input. It was highlighted that a very high percentage of the issues identified were issues that were nationally challenging or were issues that had already been identified and the Department was trying to find solutions for them.

A representative of Care Inspectorate Wales presented the report, detailing the findings. Senior Officers of the Department were thanked for their preparatory work ahead of October and for the work and support during the inspection. The letter included in the Agenda (page 16) was highlighted and it was explained that this letter was the outcome of the visit.

Some matters included in the letter were highlighted such as the praise for the progress that had been made in the area of domiciliary care although there were further improvements to be made. It was thought that the waiting time for assessments needed to be reconciled as there were delays with some assessments for domiciliary care. The strengths and evident improvements in the area of adult safeguarding and assessment of people's mental capacity were also acknowledged.

It was accepted that challenges existed in trying to work in partnership with the Health Board while recognising that efforts were being made, and the importance of continuing those efforts was emphasised. Some areas for improvement were highlighted such as the challenges in recording data on assessments and support for unpaid carers, indicating that there was room to make the data more reliable.

A representative of Audit Wales presented an overview of the Audit Wales Report as included in the Agenda (page 37). It was clarified that the inspection work carried out by WAO focused on matters relating to the provision and commissioning of internal and external domiciliary care. They expressed gratitude for the welcome during the visit and for the collaboration.

The Llechen Lân report and the plans in the pipeline were commended, stating that this showed long-term thinking and considerations to transform the Department to be more effective. It was noted that it was a weakness that this priority was not included in the Department's plan nor in the Council Plan but it was highlighted that plans were in the pipeline and that changes had already taken place to remedy this, which was very encouraging.

One element that was ineffective in the current system was pointed out, i.e. the tension between running an efficient service and a lack of budget and creating a service that was financially sustainable. It was noted that without a significant change, the overspending this year seemed inevitable. It was reiterated that Llechen Lân was showing an increased demand; as a result it would be necessary to ensure that the level of service was consistent and that the Council and Members received assurance that the budget was sustainable in order to avoid the need to find more reserves annually.

Reference was made to the risk register which recognised the risks and identified mitigation steps. It was noted that the Department was not expected to resolve all the obstacles in the near future but that measures were in place and that the waiting lists were constantly decreasing and improving. Exhibit 3 in the report on page 43 of the Agenda was highlighted which made four recommendations to the Council.

The Statutory Director of Social Services added that the Adults Department had faced several challenges recently and took pride in the results of the inspections being relatively positive. It was recognised that there was room for improvement and that the results of all the inspections including the WLGA inspection had come to fairly similar conclusions. It was highlighted that the Department was already aware of many areas for improvement noting that some of these areas were a challenge for the Department but it was believed that the CIW report was fair and accurate and provided an opportunity for the Department to improve.

It was believed that all the reports concluded that the Department was on the right track but needed to act faster. Attention was drawn to the action plan that the Department had in place.

The challenges in the field of domiciliary care, particularly over the last two years, were referenced and it was acknowledged that there was more work to be done in the field. It was added that the situation was improving and that a report to add the work on domiciliary care into the Council Plan would come before the Full Council shortly. The comments received from the inspectors on the Llechen Lân programme were welcomed and the inspectors were thanked for their work.

During the discussion, the following observations were made:

Thanks was expressed for the reports. Reference was made to a suggestion at a previous meeting that the Adults Department should make greater use of the scrutiny process. It was suggested that there may be room to make greater use of the Scrutiny Committees and to change the way Scrutiny was carried out in order to be more helpful to the Departments.

There was concern that some of the Council's frontline workers, e.g. home carers, had no one to speak to often enough and it was asked whether the Council could give these staff more opportunities to express their views.

- In response, the challenge of receiving feedback from staff was acknowledged, noting that these frontline posts could be solitary jobs.

- It was explained that the Council had held sessions of thanks last year for home carers who worked for the Council. It was explained that these sessions were for domiciliary care workers who were out in the community. Ten sessions were held, and it was noted that the Department had received a lot of useful feedback. Following the feedback and recommendations it was noted that changes had already taken place such as a dedicated lunch space for staff and supervision and support from line managers. Reference was made to the hubs that had been set up in some areas to meet this request from staff.
- It was noted that the Department was aware of the requirements on home carers and sought to act on the concerns raised by the Member.
- It was added that there were plans for the Statutory Director of Social Services, Head of the Adults, Health and Well-being Department and the Cabinet Member to visit the Department's services over the coming months. It was highlighted that the intention was to listen to staff and their concerns and the challenges they faced.
- It was mentioned that work was underway to put a charter in place so that staff were aware of the support available to them at work. It was also noted that questionnaires were being sent out to staff in order to get their views on the service.
- Reference was made to the Care Academy which had now been established to attract and support staff careers in the care fields.

Sympathy was expressed with the constant challenges facing the Adults Department. A point was highlighted in the Wales Audit Office's report on a lack of adequate budget in the Adults Department and it was asked how an increased budget could be secured for the Department in light of the financial challenges facing the Council. It was hoped that this message would be conveyed to the Welsh Government, expressing the view that the Council was underfunded.

- In response, it was noted that the WAO had produced a national report in December on the funding of the Local Government sector which contained a clear message about the difficulties that existed within the sector nationally.
- The Head of Adults, Health and Well-being added that the aim was to act more efficiently to address the needs but that this was difficult due to the increase in demand. It was stated that there was a duty to use the available funds in the most efficient way.

It was commented that the report did not mention that the integrated mental health service that used to sit within the Health Authority had been discontinued. It was thought that a reference to this change should have been included in the report as it was a significant change.

- In response it was noted that CIW's specific focus was to follow up on the issues identified in the previous inspection back in 2022 and this issue was not identified as one of the main improvements at that time. It was thought that the issue was a regional one and wider than Gwynedd as a particular area.
- The Assistant Head of Safeguarding, Quality Assurance, Mental Health and Community Safety said that a further report on the Mental Health Service would come before the Care Scrutiny Committee in April.

It was asked how many officers within the Council were doing the work of assessing people for mental capacity and whether CIW believed those numbers to be sufficient.

- In response it was noted that all Social Workers were able to carry out mental capacity assessments and that a bid has been submitted for funding to employ two additional best interest assessors to strengthen the DOLS team.
- CIW made the point that the standard of assessments had improved.

RESOLVED

To accept the reports and request progress reports.

7. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, CHAIR AND AREA MANAGER OF BETSI CADWALADR HEALTH BOARD

Representatives of the Health Board were welcomed to the meeting. The questions that had been asked in advance were asked to the Health Board in the order in which they appeared on the Committee's Agenda, giving Health Board representatives the opportunity to respond and the Members to ask further questions.

Vision

Thanks were given for the warm welcome and it was stated that it was a pleasure to visit the Council to answer questions. It was explained that the 'Well North Wales' scheme had been running for some time but was something that the Health Board was reconsidering. It was explained that it was work that had been taking place with the third sector, with partners in the county councils across north Wales, and in Gwynedd it provided an opportunity to focus on well-being. It was elaborated that the intention was to try to help the people in disadvantaged areas in particular and to address the major problems that could make a difference in the background.

It was acknowledged that problems had arisen with staffing levels in community hospitals across Gwynedd. The Health Board's vision for the future, it was explained, was to establish more minor injuries units to prevent people from going to the larger hospitals for treatment. It was further clarified that the aim was also to set up treatment rooms in the community hospitals to prevent people from having to travel far to get intravenous drugs. It was reported that the 'Tuag Adref' service had had a positive start. It was noted that patients were able to remain in their homes with a little support from the Health Board and community nurses to avoid overcrowding in the hospitals.

The idea of having more community hospitals capable of providing more services to patients was welcomed, but as a consequence, concern was expressed about some services, such as the vascular service, being centralised. It was explained that there was vascular specialisation previously at Ysbyty Gwynedd, but the service was now centralised at Glan Clwyd Hospital. In response it was explained that the vascular service hub was based at Glan Clwyd Hospital and that some other services were at Ysbyty Gwynedd and Maelor Hospital. It was also noted that this was a wider problem as it was not possible to maintain specialist services everywhere in north Wales due to a lack of numbers.

Doctors and other daily services (which are non-emergency services)

It was reported that most of the Health Board's work was done in primary care. Statistics were submitted showing that, over a six-month period, there were half a million primary care appointments in north west Wales. It was recognised that there were problems with recruiting doctors which put a strain on the system but it was hoped that the opening of a medical school in Bangor would help this in the future.

In terms of access to primary care, it was noted that they worked in multidisciplinary teams, with prescribing pharmacists, therapists, nurses and paramedics all working together. Mention was also made of the '50 day Challenge' which had enabled the Health Board to provide additional funding for pharmacists and doctors to consider the vulnerable patients in an attempt to help to try to keep patients at home, or as close as

possible to home. It was warned that this money was short-term funding to trial different approaches.

It was acknowledged that there were flow difficulties in the emergency department but it was noted that this was related to the number of people coming into the department rather than the need for emergency services. It was explained that a comprehensive hub was needed in each community with a range of services, and to have people aware of that. That would take the pressure off the emergency department. It was noted that access to the emergency department needed to be better tailored by directing people to the range of other services available. Members expressed concern that there was a lack of a minor injuries unit in some areas which forced people to go to the emergency unit and therefore it was asked whether more minor injuries units were needed around Gwynedd.

A member explained that he had recently attended the emergency department and there was no sandwich vending machine or cold water vending machine. It was noted that the provision of a drink and sandwich machine in the emergency unit would be a minor matter which would improve the experience of people in the unit. Furthermore, he noted that there were so many weaknesses in the system and that he was worried about the future. He added that the staff were doing their best under incredible pressure but that the system was not working effectively.

It was agreed that there was a problem with the lack of food and drink machines in the unit and that work needed to be done to improve the experiences of people in the unit. It was acknowledged that there were major problems with the emergency department but that this was a national problem with the population living to an older age. It was noted that this problem needed to be addressed, including focusing on the provision of care closer to home and the way society uses the available services.

It was mentioned that people's experiences while waiting for treatment were something that the Health Board could directly influence, and that patients on waiting lists should be looked after. Similarly, it was elaborated that the same was true in the emergency department with people waiting hours and sometimes days to be seen. It was noted that this needed to be done without affecting the clinical side and that it was necessary to work with other partners such as the Red Cross to create the best possible conditions for people waiting in the emergency unit.

It was asked whether there was a minor injuries unit in Bangor that was open all day every day. The member noted that she had been in the emergency department recently and there were many people there who didn't need the emergency service. These could have been referred to the minor injuries unit to take the pressure off the emergency department.

- In response, it was clarified that there was a stream for people with minor injuries and that there was then a pathway for them to get treatment without affecting the people who were true emergencies. Members' concerns were noted and it was confirmed that they would take these observations back as feedback. Furthermore, it was questioned whether Ysbyty Gwynedd was the best place to treat people with minor injuries and it was suggested that establishing other sites for this type of treatment should be considered as it made more sense for the future.

Pharmacies and dental surgeries

It was explained that the opening of pharmacies did not fall under the control of the Health Board. It was explained that when there is a pharmacy gap in north Wales, people

could apply to fill the gap but the Health Board was not able to control the process unduly. If the application was approved, the applicants had seven months to open the pharmacy and there was a period where they had to notify and tell stakeholders. It was acknowledged that the process was complicated and lengthy but that rules were in place and the Health Board needed to adhere to them.

Representatives were asked if they supported the MS for Arfon's bid to have a school of dentistry in Bangor.

- In response, it was stated that they had supported all attempts to develop the provision of services around the University in Bangor. They stated that they were happy to collaborate with government and the university to make that a reality because the need was obvious. It was reiterated that the hope then was to be able to recruit local staff so as to help with the recruitment problem.

It was asked why it was difficult to attract dentists to rural areas.

- It was acknowledged that it was difficult and that the pandemic period had exacerbated the problem in terms of contractors. It was noted that the government's dentistry service procurement process, which was worth 5 million, was currently underway. It was also explained that they had looked at how the Health Board could adapt the service by using the Health Board's dentists and sending them out into the community.

Ambulance

It was acknowledged that the Health Board needed to work more effectively to assist the ambulance service. It was noted that four work-streams were currently being addressed, namely support in the individual's home, on arrival at the hospital, flow within the hospital and discharge back into the community. It was mentioned that there was a lot of work going on right now to make the process much more efficient.

It was noted that, as an example of the development of the service, the Health Board was working closely with the ambulance service and had indicated that the service could carry out assessments when they saw the patient at the location of their accident. This would ensure that the people who needed to come to hospital were given priority.

With regard to the loss of Caernarfon Air Ambulance Headquarters, it was noted that they did not want to go into too much detail in answering the question as there was a court case at the moment and that the Gwynedd Health Board along with Powys had opposed the changes. They added that they were not sure at the moment whether the loss of the Headquarters would have a negative impact on Ysbyty Gwynedd. It was explained that Ysbyty Gwynedd was developing an air ambulance site to ensure that the service could easily access the hospital.

Centralisation of Services

It was reported by a representative of the Health Board that through the five-year plan there was an intention to conduct an assessment of the population's requirements for the next few years and then decide where the Board needed to provide services. It was mentioned that there were two considerations, namely, how to ensure the best service for people in need and how to ensure access to the service. It was acknowledged that it could be challenging for people living in rural areas to access services but at the same time, it needed to be remembered that the best opportunity for people to get the best quality of health was through access to the best service.

Vascular Service

It was confirmed that the vascular service remained at Glan Clwyd Hospital. The only change was that part of the specialist service was provided in Stoke. It was noted that the numbers receiving this service were very small, with three currently receiving it. It was explained that the intention in future was to develop the service and build on the partnership with the hospital in Stoke. It was thought important to note that specialist services across Britain were taking place in fewer centres and that there was a need to ensure that people received the best possible service.

They acknowledged and noted that they were aware of concerns about travel distances to receive certain services. With regard to the vascular service in particular, it was explained that to receive the best possible service at the moment the best place was the hospital in Stoke. It was noted that the partnership between the hospitals on clinical work was working and was very effective.

Mental Health

It was reported that the integrated mental health service between Cyngor Gwynedd and the Health Board had been discontinued in May 2024. It was explained that this had been happening across Wales and was not unique to Gwynedd. It was noted that the service still existed but was a slightly different model, i.e. it was not integrated. In terms of expectations, it was reported that the mental health service was being monitored regularly and the figures were shared with the Welsh Government.

It was explained that they had not increased the mental health team at the Health Board but had used the extra time of existing staff to try to help. It was recognised that there was quite a backlog but that this was a national problem and that the national teams were looking at what could be done to address these problems. It was noted that they were monitoring complaints and that there was a team within the Health Board that was helping patients and making sure people got a response to their complaints as quickly as possible.

As for the future, it was noted that they felt positive because a new strategy on Mental Health was being introduced by the Welsh Government this year. This would clarify everyone's expectations within the system. It was hoped that the focus would be on the patient so that they got the care they needed.

It was mentioned that work was currently being delivered within the Community Mental Health Teams in order to address the waiting lists. It was also noted that a staffing review was taking place to try to understand exactly where the weaknesses were and whether staffing was adequate for the future. It was explained that the Health Board also received support from HEIW, which had introduced a new strategy in the field.

Preventive intermediate services

In terms of what the Health Board had budgeted, it was explained that one vacancy was related to occupational therapy and one vacancy was due to illness. In terms of physiotherapy, it was noted that they had recruited and that all teams were at full capacity. It was believed that it was an exciting time at the moment for people working in this field and that funding had been given by the government to tailor job descriptions and professional scope. It was explained that there was a therapy consultant managing and running the department and getting excellent results with patients. Furthermore, it was noted that positive data was starting to emerge showing that more patients were staying at home and not having to go to hospital.

Continuing Healthcare

It was explained that the Health Board was working within a national framework and that the process was a difficult and lengthy one. In terms of looking at end-of-life care, it was explained that the framework allowed the Health Board to streamline the process. Furthermore, in order to try to further simplify the process, it was noted that they had been using some of the beds in the community hospitals in a different way. That involved bringing the patient to the community hospital and conducting the assessment at the hospital before returning home or going to a specific home.

Improving systems and communication

It was explained that the Health Board's priority at this time was to make sure that its systems were fully integrated. It was noted that there were a few places, such as the mental health unit, where they did not currently have electronic systems in place. However, the Health Board was developing an electronic system for recording all healthcare. It was felt that it was a local priority for the Health Board but that there was a need to work with other health boards to make sure everything was integrated.

A member pointed out the shortcomings of the electronic systems in the hospitals. He stated that he had been to Ysbyty Gwynedd for an appointment but that the hospital was unable to get his X-ray images from Abergele because the systems were different and not compatible. He reiterated that it was important that the doctors in different hospitals could easily and instantly see the information they needed.

The representative of the Health Board acknowledged that the way they used technology needed to be improved and utilised more. It was explained that Covid had created some changes but that there was a need to continue to develop the use of technology and ensure that appropriate systems were in place.

Delegates were thanked for being so willing to answer questions from members and for their honesty. It was emphasised that everyone needed to work together to make sure things improved in the future.

RESOLVED

To accept the information received from the Health Board and their responses to members' questions which will be summarised in the Committee minutes.

The meeting commenced at 10.30am and concluded at 2.50pm.

MEETING	Care Scrutiny Committee
DATE	3 April 2025
TITLE	Housing Action Plan – Progress update
REASON FOR SCRUTINY	The Housing Action Plan contributes towards a the Homely Gwynedd priority field in the Council Plan 2023-28
AUTHOR	Carys Fôn Williams, Head of Housing and Property
CABINET MEMBER	Councillor Paul Rowlinson

1. Why does it need scrutinising?

- 1.1. Increasing the supply of housing to local people, ensuring no-one is homeless in Gwynedd and dealing with the energy costs and fuel poverty crisis is a priority in the Council's Plan and projects within the Housing Action Plan aims to respond accordingly.
- 1.2. The Plan was scrutinised in February 2024 therefore it would be timely to request a further progress report in April 2025.

2. What exactly needs to be scrutinised?

- What is the progress?
- Is the plan on track to deliver?
- What is the effect of the plan?

3. Summary and Key Matters

- 3.1. 831 units have been build, purchased or have come back into use since the start of the Housing Action Plan, with 227 of those since the Department last reported to this Committee in February 2024.
- 3.2. Thus far, over £68m has been spent on schemes within the Housing Action Plan (with £10.5m of that from the Council Tax Premium fund), which has helped 8,720 of Gwynedd residents. An overview of the basic figures along with targets can be found in Appendix 1.
- 3.3. We must admit that challenges have been faced along the way e.g. the first two years were very difficult due to the side-effects caused by the pandemic and Brexit; while we have been able to purchase properties quickly, renovating them has taken more time than anticipated due to the lack of resources and contractors; interest rates, construction costs and living costs have all risen sharply since the start of the Plan.
- 3.4. Despite this, we are confident that our projects are on track to achieve the targets set at the beginning and within the set period of time.
- 3.5. By delivering the Housing Action Plan's projects, Gwynedd residents' wellbeing, their ability to attain a tenancy, be home-owners or is positively impacted, as well as ensuring that opportunities are available for people to live in suitable, safe and quality homes. Council resources could also be positively impacted, as our dependency on costly emergency accommodation reduces, and we hope to be able to go part of the way to address the massive demand for homes.

4. Background / Context

- 4.1. The purpose of this report is to offer an update on the progress of the Housing Action Plan's schemes, and their effect on Gwynedd residents.
- 4.2. The Cyngor Gwynedd Housing Action Plan 2020/21-2026/27 was approved by the Cabinet on 15 December 2020, which includes 33 projects across five key areas to ensure that the people of Gwynedd have a suitable, affordable and quality home.
- 4.3. Those five key areas continue to be as relevant today, i.e.:
 - Ensure that no-one is homeless in Gwynedd
 - Increase the opportunities for Gwynedd residents to secure a social tenancy
 - Help the residents of Gwynedd to own an affordable home in their community
 - Housing in Gwynedd is environmentally friendly
 - Houses in Gwynedd have a positive influence on the health and well-being of residents
- 4.4. Many of the projects of the Housing Action Plan are a core part of enabling the Council to deliver the Council Plan 2023-28 – 'Increasing the supply of houses for local people', 'Ensuring that nobody is homeless in Gwynedd', and 'Dealing with the energy costs and fuel poverty crisis', are a key part of the 'Gwynedd Glyd' priority area.
- 4.5. Following changes to the housing situation, the needs of the people of Gwynedd and financial sources over the past years, particularly as a result of Covid-19 and Brexit, an opportunity was taken recently to review the Plan, taking advantage of new opportunities to extend and help even more residents in the county with their housing situation.
- 4.6. The current Plan invests over £180m over the life of the Plan, drawing on many financial sources including the Housing Support Grant, Welsh Government Social Housing Grant, the Council's Asset Management Plan and of course, the Council Tax Premium on Second Homes and Empty Houses.
- 4.7. Funds received from the Council Tax Premium Fund (roughly 27% of the whole Plan's worth) has been fully allocated against projects within the Housing Action Plan, such as supported housing costs, building our own homes, contributing towards residential elements in community plans, bringing empty homes back into use, and ensuring that disabled people are able to continue to live in their current homes.
- 4.8. Being able to include the Premium as a financial source has allowed the Department to attract several extra grants. Priority was given to spending these grants first due to the time limit for spending, and this in turn has allowed us to prioritise premium spend ensuring that it benefits Gwynedd residents as much as possible.

Highlights and progress update

4.9. Good progress can be seen since adopting the Plan in April 2021:

	<i>Difference since last report</i>
• 352 social housing has been built	+111
• 259 empty homes has been brought back into use	+57
• 43 houses have been bought from the open market	+22
• 101 grants have been issued to renovate empty properties	+37
• 746 home adaptations grants have been issued to enable disabled people to continue to live at home	+113

4.10. Through all schemes within the Housing Action Plan, **8,600 people have been helped** to live in a house locally.

Supported housing (1a):

- 4.11. Our first 5 unit supported housing development, **Dôl Sadler** (the former Ysgol Glan Wnion in Dolgellau) completed last year. The project was shortlisted for *Inside Housing Development's* awards in the *Best Supported Housing Development: Rural/Suburban* category.
- 4.12. Several other workstreams are ongoing, including 35 College Road, Bangor (3 units), 137 High Street, Bangor (12 units), and the former Welsh Government building in the Penrallt, Caernarfon area (up to 40 units) where we will eventually locate our new housing hub, as well as continued work on other development sites across the county.
- 4.13. In addition to this, the Department have been successful in receiving significant grant funding through Welsh Government Transitional Accommodation Capital Programme neu TACP.
- 4.14. 17 properties have been approved through the Programme across the county and 34 individuals have been accommodated to date. Furthermore, 6 other properties are in progress at the moment.
- 4.15. We intend to convert the Mona Building, Caernarfon, which was a Council office building until December 2024, into 5 units to accommodate individuals to meet the demand for temporary accommodation in Arfon. Phase 1 i.e. external work, has commenced since the beginning of March, and phase 2 will follow soon.

Building social housing (2a):

- 4.16. The Council is not a stock-holding authority (since the stock transfer in 2010), therefore collaborating with the Housing Associations operating in Gwynedd is crucial in order to meet the demand for affordable housing across the county.
- 4.17. Through Welsh Government's Social Housing Grant, managed by the Council, sites are prioritised where the demand for housing exists in order to meet the demand.
- 4.18. Since the beginning of the Housing Action Plan, 352 social housing units have been built across Gwynedd with another 361 in progress on the Main Programme. This has helped 1,178 people attain a social tenancy.

- 4.19. Indeed, the Council has been commended recently by Welsh Government for the positive collaboration and working relationship that exists between us and the Housing Associations, and we have been frequently successful in attracting extra funding when slippage is available from the national fund.

Tŷ Gwynedd Scheme – building our own homes (3a):

- 4.20. Work on the Tŷ Gwynedd scheme has been gaining momentum, and preparatory work to identify sites, feasibility studies, tendering for contractors, preparing and submitting planning applications have all been in progress over the last few years (and continue to do so on sites across Gwynedd).
- 4.21. Now, contractors are on site at two locations, namely **former Llanberis Library site (3 units)** and **the former Ysgol Babanod Coed Mawr, Bangor site (10 units)** and work is ongoing – the old library was demolished during the summer of 2024, and [work commenced in October 2024](#); and a [a turf-cutting ceremony on the Coed Mawr site](#) took place in December 2024.
- 4.22. The development on the **Maes Twnti, Morfa Nefyn (9 units)** site has been approved by the [Council's Planning Committee on 13 January, 2025](#) and sites at **Llanystumdwy (5 units)** and **Mynytho (4 units)** are on different stages of the process and is making good progress.
- 4.23. The team is also considering other appropriate sites across the county to advance the programme and to reach our ambition of constructing 90 homes between now and the end of the Plan.

Buy to Let Scheme (2c/3b):

- 4.24. To date, 43 houses have been purchased and 4 is in progress; 11 are now new homes to local families. This means the target set for this year's purchases (i.e. 43) has already been reached.
- 4.25. Essential renovating/upgrading work is ongoing, and there is potential for up to 161 individuals to benefit.
- 4.26. In terms of letting, 16 houses have been let to local residents, with another 26 in progress and will have been let by the end of the year.
- 4.27. The houses which have been let will generate income from rent, which in turn will be reinvested in the Scheme to purchase more houses, and to ensure stock maintenance.
- 4.28. The Scheme was originally intended to be funded by borrowing. However, with interest rates and costs extremely high following Brexit and Covid-19, the Cabinet approved, in its meeting on 13 June 2023, to earmark and prioritise utilising Premium funds to fund some purchases until the situation regarding borrowing improves.
- 4.29. With interest rates still high, we will ask the Cabinet for approval to allocate more Premium funds to bridge until such a period when rates are better, so that the current pace can be continued while further discussions with the Finance Department are held regarding borrowing.
- 4.30. Work is ongoing continually to identify more suitable properties in order to reach the ambition of purchasing and letting 100 houses within the Plan's lifetime.

Engaging with the community (3c)

- 4.31. Although we know the demand for housing is high, and that firm data supports this for all areas of Gwynedd, engaging with Gwynedd residents is an important part of the Department's work and of the Housing Action Plan.
- 4.32. While there are many ways of doing this, one of the most efficient ways is to go out to the community to speak directly with the people of Gwynedd. To this end, the Department has arranged a series of roadshows, named 'Tai ar Daith' – drop-in sessions inviting the public and councillors to drop by to see us and discuss their housing situation, receive more information or ask questions directly to the Housing and Property Department's officers and other associated internal services such as the Planning Service, along with key external partners like the Housing Associations.
- 4.33. Positive feedback was received about the last series, held in spring 2024, which attracted 158 visitors, and where 96% of responders said they felt they benefitted from the session.
- 4.34. The next series will visit Bethesda, Porthmadog, Tywyn, and Nefyn. More details can be found here: [Tai ar Daith: Housing drop-in sessions](#)

Empty Homes Schemes (3dd):

- 4.35. 259 empty homes have come back into use across Gwynedd thanks to the assistance and support of our empty homes team, including 97 empty homes grants. A total of 319 people have been helped through these grants, including 125 people through the 97 grants.
- 4.36. Recently, an opportunity was taken to enhance the Scheme in response to the changes in residents' needs and the increase seen nationally in general costs. Now, the maximum available grant has increased from £15,000 to £20,000, and that grant is now available to all types of buyers, not first time buyers only.
- 4.37. This is in addition to the steps taken in 2023 to extend the criteria to allow owners of previously empty second homes to also be eligible for support, allowing as many empty houses as possible to come back into use in the county.
- 4.38. Over £1.1m worth of grants have been given so far in all areas of Gwynedd, with the split for Arfon, Dwyfor and Meirionnydd as follows:
- Arfon – 49
 - Dwyfor – 23
 - Meirionnydd – 29
- 4.39. Also, scheme 3e which offers a Council tax exemption for up to one year so that empty home owners can complete essential renovation works has been very successful with 123 approved exemptions up to Q4 2024.

Homebuy Scheme (3f):

- 4.40. Since newly launching this scheme in September 2022, 59 households (135 people) have been helped to purchase their home, and another 35 applications are at different stages of the process, across Gwynedd.

- 4.41. To date, £4.5m worth of loans have been provided through this Scheme.
- 4.42. The Council, in partnership with the Dwyfor Pilot, has secured a agreement to increase the permitted maximum property value in the Homebuy Scheme's criteria in some areas of Dwyfor where property prices are high, in order to ensure local residents have the best access possible to the Scheme.

Set up a new Energy Conservation Service (4a)

- 4.43. To give Gwynedd residents the best possible help and support with energy matters, the Department has enhanced its Energy Service as part of the Housing Action Plan, which collaborates with our partners to promote and facilitate energy saving plans, grants, and benefits in order to ensure as many people as possible take advantage of the support available at this challenging time.
- 4.44. The ECO4 Scheme, launched in 2022 and lasts until 2026, is a key part of this. The scheme is funded by Welsh Government, whereby grants are given to help vulnerable households living in low energy performing houses to improve the energy performance and reduce fuel poverty.
- 4.45. Up to now, over £10m of investment has allowed 597 of Gwynedd homes to improve their energy performance – 248 of these rising 4 EPC levels. 449 homes are now on EPC B.
- 4.46. The Department has also been administering a scheme distributing energy vouchers to households with pre-payment meters. These vouchers are available through the charity *Fuel Bank Foundation*, and 4,487 vouchers have been given to-date, worth £188,000.

Adaptations to the homes of disabled adults and children (5d, 5f, 5ff)

- 4.47. The work on adapting homes for disabled people is an important part of the Housing Action Plan to ensure that houses are suitable homes for our residents. These adaptations often mean the difference between being able to continue to live at home or having to move to a care setting such as hospital or care home.
- 4.48. Scheme 5d (Suitable homes for children with severe physical needs) has now helped 14 children with their home situation, with jobs such as extensions, converting bedrooms into wet-rooms, installing ramps etc.

5. Consulting

- 5.1. A briefing session on the progress of the Housing Action Plan was arranged for all Council Members on 19 March 2025. 19 members attended the session where valuable questions and positive comments were received on the whole.
- 5.2. Among the comments made were a recognition of the challenge faced by the Department and the Council in terms of the demand for housing; enquiries about which sites we are looking at to build homes, and a question about the process of renovating the homes we buy to let.
- 5.3. As explained in 4.29, the Department will soon be beginning the [second series of Tai ar Daith drop-in sessions](#) around the county where members of the public,

councillors and anyone who wishes to stop by is welcome to come to speak to officers from a variety of services linked to housing.

- 5.4. We are also glad to have had the opportunity to report on the progress of the Housing Action Plan to this Scrutiny Committee annually since 2022, and always appreciate Members' comments.

6. Future Generations Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2015

- 6.1. The Future Generations Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2015 was at the heart of originally forming the Housing Action Plan in 2019/20, and a specific reference to all of the Act's cornerstones can be found within each Scheme – an example of which is included below:

1a Cynlluniau tai â chefnogaeth i'r digartref

Cyfres o ddatblygiadau 'tai â chefnogaeth' er mwyn gallu cartrefu unigolion, cyplau a theuluoedd sy'n wynebu digartrefedd ac angen llety dros dro ar frys. Bydd hyn yn caniatáu osgoi lleoli pobl mewn llety anaddas (e.e. gwely a brecwast) ac yn galluogi i ni ddarparu'r gefnogaeth sydd ei angen i rhoi cymorth iddynt allu datblygu sgiliau byw'n annibynnol. Gall y gefnogaeth fod ar y safle neu yn symudol ei natur.

Nifer o Unedau 38	Buddsoddiad £4m	Cysylltiad i brif feysydd gwaith y Cyngor: Adfywio Cefnogi Pobl Hinsawdd
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7. Impact on Equality Characteristics, the Welsh Language and the Socio-economic duty

- 7.1. An Impact Assessment was prepared to this end when the Housing Action Plan was originally launched in 2020, and updated when the Plan was reviewed in June 2023 – click this link to read that assessment:
<https://democratiaeth.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/documents/s38130/Atodiad%203%20-%20Asesiad%20Effaith%20Cydraddoldeb.pdf?LLL=1>.
- 7.2. The Plan is considered to have a positive effect on all equality characteristics and the Welsh language by increasing the number and breadth of houses within the county addressing the needs of different communities.
- 7.3. For example, there will be a positive effect on the Welsh language by helping approximately 63% of Gwynedd residents that have been priced out of the market have access to affordable homes, or through loans, grants, tax reliefs etc. The data recently collected by the Housing Association Adra on one of their new estates in Dinas, Llanwnda indicates that 94% of new residents can speak Welsh. A similar review on another new estate in Tregarth indicates that 96% of residents on that estate can speak Welsh.
- 7.4. The Plan also has a positive impact on disabled people, with specific schemes (some highlighted in this report) assisting disabled children and adults with a suitable, affordable and accessible home. This is done by either adapting houses or introducing temporary or permanent specialist units.

8. Next steps

- 8.1. A report will be presented to the Cabinet on 13 May, 2025 which will summarise the progress of the Housing Action Plan, along with outlining next steps in the wake of extending the Plan to 2028/29.
- 8.2. By extending the Plan for another two years, two years' worth of Council Tax Premium will be available and needs to be allocated for the Housing Action Plan.
- 8.3. The extra Premium is intended to be allocated as follows:

Ref.	Scheme	Extra funding (Premium)
1a	Supported Housing (1a)	£2.7m
2c	Buy to Let (2c)	£2.7m
3a	Tŷ Gwynedd – building our own homes (3a)	£2m
3dd	Empty Homes Schemes (3dd)	£700k
New	Smallholdings	£2.1m

- 8.4. As a result, the Department will be able to aim to build, adapt or recover over 500 extra units to the output of the Council by the end of its lifespan.
- 8.5. The total investment will be over £180m across all the Plan's schemes, drawing on several funding sources such as the Council Tax Premium, the Council's Asset Management Plan and the Social Housing Grant.
- 8.6. Should Cabinet approval be given to the next steps, we will move forward to publish an updated Housing Action Plan document.

9. Background information

Cyngor Gwynedd Housing Action Plan 2020/21-2026/27	https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Residents/Documents-Residents/Housing-documents/Housing-Action-Plan.pdf
Report and minutes of the Care Scrutiny Committee 01/02/2024 – Housing Action Plan progress report	Item 5 – Agenda for Care Scrutiny Committee on Thursday, 1st February, 2024, 10.30 am
Report and minutes of the Cabinet meeting 13/06/2023 – 'Review of the Cyngor Gwynedd Housing Action Plan'	Item 11 – Agenda for The Cabinet on Tuesday, 13th June, 2023, 1.00 pm

10. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Overview of all Housing Action Plan schemes' details and progress

11. Responses to the questions received beforehand from Members of the Committee

11.1. Field/subject: Supported housing for the homeless schemes

11.1.1 What are the latest homeless figures and has there been a decrease as a result of the Council's plans?

- During the 2024/25 financial year up to mid-March, 891 households have presented to the Service as homeless, and 564 households were housed in emergency accommodation.
- These presentations figures are roughly the same as last years', however the number in emergency accommodation has slightly reduced compared to 2023/24 (when 662 households were housed during the year).
- This could be due to several reasons, however the hard work and dedicated actions of the Department and Homelessness Service are certainly a factor in this reduction as we aim to reduce our dependency on unsuitable emergency accommodation.
- We will know the final figures at the end of the year, however the data suggests, while presentations remain high, the Department's schemes and arrangements to reduce the dependency on emergency accommodation is working and going in the right direction.

11.1.2 How many supported housing developments have been realised and how many people have benefitted from this?

- 20 supported housing units have been completed since the start of the HAP, including a 5-unit development in Dolgellau, 2 units in Pwllheli and the renovation of our hostels.
- As a result, at least 22 individuals have been helped, and as natural client turnover progresses, more and more individual will benefit from the developments.
- Please see 4.12-4.16 of this report for details on some of the completed schemes and ones currently in progress.

11.2. Field/subject: Innovative Housing Pilot Scheme**11.2.1 What is the latest regarding building 4 "pods" for the homeless from Passivhaus technology?**

- These pods were one of the first developments delivered in the name of the Housing Action Plan in 2021: [Tai ecogyfeillgar i roi cartref i bobl fregus yng Ngwynedd | NS4C | Newyddion S4C](#)
- *Passivhaus* principles means that the pods have low running costs, and are environmentally friendly.
- The pods have been a temporary home to 9 individuals since opening, enabling the Department to reduce its dependency on unsuitable accommodation and associated costs.

11.3. Field/subject: Purchase of former social housing and renting them to Gwynedd residents**11.3.1 How many "former Council homes" are on sale that have been purchased and let to be rented by local people?**

- Please see 4.25-4.31 of this report for an update on the Buy to Let Scheme.
- As a background to Members, Cabinet approval was given to combine schemes 2c (Purchase of former social housing and renting them to Gwynedd residents) and 3b (Purchasing private housing) in February 2021, and are now one project named 'Buy to Let'. This was also confirmed in a [report](#) submitted to the Cabinet in June 2023.

11.4. Field/subject: Purchasing private housing and intermediate rent housing**11.4.1 How many private housing on sale have been purchased and let to local people on intermediate rent?**

- Please refer to the previous response (11.3.1) and paragraphs 4.25-4.31 of this report.

11.4.2 We have received complaints from some constituents that intermediate rent set by the housing associations on behalf of the council have increased significantly. Can you explain why the rent is higher than the intermediate housing rent and why a 5% increase was placed on rent recently?

- Please note that intermediate and social rent levels are two different things and cannot be compared.
- Generally, intermediate rent levels and costs sit above social rent levels, but below open market rent/costs levels.
- We are aware that intermediate rents have increased recently, however this is a matter for the housing associations as the Council does not have influence over the rent levels. However, it appears that the increase is in line with the nationally permitted levels, and any changes will be reflected in individual housing associations' policies.

11.5. Field/subject: First Time Buyers' Grants to Renovate empty homes

11.5.1 How many residents have taken advantage of the opportunity to renovate empty homes to an acceptable living standard? Have you reached the target of helping approx. 70 first time buyers over the last two years?

- Please refer to the update given in paragraphs 4.36-4.40.
- For the second part of the question, we can confirm that 97 grants (which has helped 125 people) have been provided since the beginning of the Plan.

11.6. Field/subject: Purchasing land for building in the future

11.6.1 How many parcels of land has the Council purchased so far

- 4 pieces of land have been purchased so far – in Mynytho, Llanystumdwy, Morfa Nefyn and Caernarfon. These lands enable us to move ahead with building new homes for Gwynedd residents under the Tŷ Gwynedd Scheme banner.
- Availability of suitable land can be a challenge, therefore it's important to note that we make use of land already in our possession – the best example of this is the two Tŷ Gwynedd developments currently on site, namely the former Llanberis library site, and the former Ysgol Babanod Coed Mawr, Bangor site. Other sites are under consideration such as Llanrug, Llidiardau, y Bala and Tywyn.

11.6.2 How many sites have already been developed and how many are ongoing?

- Building contractors are on site at 2 locations at the moment, namely the former Llanberis library site, and the former Ysgol Babanod Coed Mawr, Bangor site.
- More information can be found in paragraphs 4.21-4.24 of this report.

11.7. Field/subject: Empty homes

11.7.1 What are the plans to ensure that empty buildings and homes are part of the plan? (including buildings in the Council's possession)

- Bringing empty homes back into use is a crucial part of the Housing Action Plan since the very beginning. Two main schemes relate to empty homes, namely:
 - 3dd – Empty Homes Schemes (which includes grants to renovate empty properties – please see 4.36-4.40)

- 3e – Council Tax Exemptions for empty homes – a scheme which allows up to a year's extra Council tax exception for empty home owners so that necessary renovation work can be completed
- Please note that other schemes indirectly enable bringing empty properties back into use, such as the Buy to Let Scheme (2c), Homebuy Scheme (3f) and Contribution towards an affordable unit within community regeneration plans (3g).

Overview of the main Housing Action Plan progress figures

	Description	Unit Target	Completed Units	Units in progress	Individuals target	Individuals helped	Budget	Expenditure
1a	Supported housing for the homeless schemes	83	20	62	83	22	£14,300,000	£3,546,495
1b	Supported housing for homeless young people (Lle Da)	4	4	-	4		£1,251,442	£1,005,608
1c	Self contained units for individuals with intensive social needs	5		5	5		£800,000	£442,058
1ch	Support packages for private landlords	140	23	11	331	64	£3,300,000	£243,465
1d	Specialist mental health support	0		40 individuals	200	56	£240,000	£45,158
1dd	Accommodation and extra support in Arfon	6		6	6		£600,000	£500
2a	Build more social housing than what can be funded through the social housing grant	700	352	361	2,500	1,178	£56,700,000	£42,842,136
2b	Redevelop the Polish Care Home site in Penrhos	107			176			
2c	Buy to Let	100	43	3	300	164	£22,400,000	£5,288,907
3a	Tŷ Gwynedd – developing our own homes	90		43	330		£9,000,000	£360,350
3c	Consult with communities to establish their housing needs	0	-	-	0	43	£150,000	£1,360
3ch	Refusing applications to remove a local person condition on former 'Council houses'	70	43	20	75	63		
3dd	Empty Homes Schemes	282	259		400	319	£4,080,000	£1,027,780
3e	Council Tax Exemption on empty houses for first time buyers	120			120	123	£200,000	£165,061
3f	Gwynedd Homebuy Scheme	120	59	35	425	135	£11,500,000	£4,561,495
3ff	Finding and purchasing land for building in the future	0			0	0	£1,200,000	£679,472
3g	Residential element in community regeneration schemes	12	1		12	4	£600,000	£37,500
4a	Set up a new Energy Conservation service for home-owners	0			4000	2000	£500,000	£231,620
4b	Innovative Housing Pilot Scheme	4	4		4	4	£600,000	£839,269
5a	Supported housing – youth	4	0		4		£1,400,000	
5b	Extra care housing for the elderly	72	0		72		£13,000,000	
5ch	Supported Housing – adults with profound needs	15	0		10		£500,000	
5d	Suitable homes for children with severe physical needs	15	14	6	10	14	£1,200,000	£1,438,759
5dd	Frondeg, Caernarfon	17	0		20		£200,000	£2,552
5e	Interest-free loans to improve housing conditions	0	12	20	25	27	£250,000	£137,335
5f	Home Safety	0	0	10	2000	3684	£600,000	£400,000
5ff	Adaptations to make houses suitable homes for individuals with disabilities	0	0	-	900	820	£7,200,000	£5,568,246
6a	One-stop shop for Housing matters	0	-		3,500		£480,000	
Targets are in line with the current Plan		1,966	834	582	15,512	8,720	£152,251,442	£68,865,126

Targets are in line with the current Plan

MEETING	Care Scrutiny Committee
DATE	03.04.25
TITLE	Gwynedd Mental Health Service
REASON FOR SCRUTINY	Council Plan 2023-28 – A Caring Gwynedd
AUTHOR	Mannon Emyr Trappe
CABINET MEMBER	Cllr Dilwyn Morgan

1. Why does it need to be scrutinised?

At a meeting of the Committee on 22 June 2023, the members received an overview of the Gwynedd Mental Health Service's work and the plans in place to bring the integrated team with health to a close and create a new working model. The committee decided to request a progress report on the new working model in a year's time.

2. What exactly needs to be scrutinised?

- Does the new model provide a better service, and does it operate more efficiently?
- What are the views of service users about the new service model?
- How does the relationship with health work in the context of the new arrangements?
- What exactly is the new model?
- Is there scope within the structure to adapt and change – to improve?
- How many people receive a service annually?
- How many people are on the waiting list for a service?
- Are there some people who do not receive a service or are refused? If so, how many?

3. A Summary of the Key Matters

In June 2023, the Mental Health Service submitted a report to the Scrutiny Committee identifying the situation of the Mental Health Service in Gwynedd. The report was compiled by Dr Ceryl Davies, a Consultant from the University of Wales Bangor. The purpose of the report was to identify the Council's contribution to the service, to consider how we were fulfilling the requirements of the service, within the context of statutory responsibilities, and

to consider whether resources could be better allocated to enable the workforce to give sufficient attention to preventive work and support key well-being. The Committee Members requested that we report back on the findings of the review and on any recommendations for providing a suitable mental health service in the future.

4. Background / Context

The social policy framework in Wales outlines a long-term strategic vision that focuses on a system-wide approach to Health and Social Care services. Following Sustainable Social Services: An Action Framework (2011), the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 came into effect which focused on creating services that respond to the current and future needs of the population and community, through an ethos of prevention, well-being and multi-agency practice based on the individual's strengths.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE SERVICE SINCE 1996

- i. The Mental Health Service was an integrated multidisciplinary service since 1996, with the Health Board (BCUHB) leading the Service. The Service operated in accordance with the Mental Health Measure 2010, which places a duty on local health boards and local authorities to ensure there is an appropriate service in place that focuses on the mental health needs of individuals.
- ii. The Together for Mental Health Strategy is a strategy produced by the Welsh Government to improve mental health and the provision available to support individuals across Wales.
- iii. The Integrated Mental Health Service offered a service and support to low-level cases and to more intensive cases.
- iv. Referrals were received from GPs and all referrals were scrutinised daily (Monday to Friday) and assessed to determine whether there was sufficient information to accept the referral (i.e. evidence of a mental illness or an impact on mental well-being). Referrals that did not reach the requirements for a service were referred back to the GP with an explanation, and offering alternative support options.
- v. The Measure required assessments to be conducted within 28 days, and urgent assessments within 48 hours, and required that crisis cases receive a response within 4 hours.
- vi. Social Workers were the main resource within the integrated mental health service, offering support to individuals to overcome or cope with their illness.
- vii. Since the Integrated Service was led by the Health Board, there was a strong focus on the medical model – i.e. diagnosis and medication. Our role as a local authority was to focus on the social elements and to also lead on the work under the Mental Health Act 1983.

A REPORT BY DR CERYL DAVIES, SOCIAL CARE ECONOMIST, SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SCIENCES, BANGOR UNIVERSITY (September 2022)

Dr Ceryl Davies was commissioned to assess the situation of the Integrated Health Service, and the findings of this Report were presented to the Care Scrutiny Committee on 22/06/2023.

The key finding from the work was an agreement that the integrated mental health model with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) was not sustainable and needed to be remodelled.

The conclusions of this report have already been discussed and highlighted at the Care Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 22 June 2023.

REMODELLING THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

- i. To align with the social policy ethos of Wales, the Cyngor Gwynedd Adults Services have reviewed the current Social Work aspect of the Mental Health Service and remodelled the structure of the Service. This meant replacing the integrated service, continuing to coordinate and provide comprehensive support to the residents of Gwynedd with their mental health needs.
- ii. The newly reformed service means that Mental Health Social Workers, employed by Cyngor Gwynedd, provide appropriate mental health and social service within the community, focusing on what matters to the individual and on recovery for individuals with their mental health needs.
- iii. The service focuses on the four elements of the Social Services and Well-being Act, 2014:
 - voice and control for individuals, which puts the individual at the heart of care;
 - prevention and early intervention, preventative action to reduce deterioration and the need for Emergency care;
 - well-being, supporting individuals to manage their own well-being;
 - co-production, which encourages individuals to become more involved in planning and delivering services tailored to their need.
- iv. The Council's annual budget for the service is £5,197,300.

CYNGOR GWYNEDD MENTAL HEALTH SOCIAL SERVICE

Posts employed by Cyngor Gwynedd:

Post	Arfon	De Gwynedd
Area Lead	1	1
Senior Practitioner	1	1
Social Workers	6.5	6
Social Work Practitioners	-----	0.5
Support Workers	4.5	4.5
Administrator	1	

- The teams are split into the Arfon and South Gwynedd areas. The Arfon team are based in the Council's Main Offices in Caernarfon, while the South Gwynedd team are based in the Galw Gwynedd Site, Penrhyndeudraeth, with some of the South Gwynedd Team occasionally working from the Council's office in Dolgellau.
- A successful bid was made to employ 2 new senior practitioners to enable the service re-design to take place. This significant investment by the Council has been key to ensuring that the service is in a position to meet the needs of individuals in a timely manner.
- This structure will be monitored to ensure it is fit for purpose and to learn if there is any evidence to adapt the structure to meet the need.

- 9 of the Social Workers are also AMHPs under the Mental Health Act 1983, and 2 are currently training to gain the AMHP qualification. There are an additional 3 AMHPs working within other teams within the adults field.
- Attracting and keeping AMHP's has been a challenge therefore the Department has reviewed the salaries to ensure that there is recognition for the complex role and also to ensure that we are competitive with neighbouring counties

MENTAL HEALTH – THE CURRENT SITUATION

According to statistics, 1 in every 4 person experiences a mental health disorder in the UK every year, which can include anxiety or depression. Generally, the mental health of people in North Wales is slightly better than Wales as a whole, but a small increase in cases of general mental health disorders, such as anxiety and depression, is expected between now and 2040. Whilst clinical mental health cases are expected to decrease. It is difficult to predict whether this decrease is because of a reduction in demand, or a reduction in the availability of acute mental health beds. Research also suggests that the numbers experiencing a mental health disorder are higher than the numbers receiving treatment – this may be because not everyone who experiences a mental health disorder seeks support.

In 2022-23, the National Survey included questions to assess people's mental well-being. The following figures compare the average scores for mental well-being per year. We saw an overall decrease in the scores between 2016-17 and 2022-23. The average score was 50.9 in 2016-17, compared with 48.2 in 2022-23. It shows that there is likely to be a decline in mental wellbeing and the need for support will increase because of this. It is also likely that the Covid-19 pandemic had an impact on mental wellbeing and a study has shown that young people experience more anxiety since that period. (Kupcova, I., Danisovic, L., Klein, M. et al. *Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health, anxiety, and depression. BMC Psychol* 11, 108 (2023).)

50.9	2016-17
51.4	2018-19
48.9	2021-22
48.2	2022-23

Source: National Survey for Wales, 2016-17, 2018-19, 2021-22, 2022-23

Service caseload -	
Individuals open to the service	439
Number of referrals to the Service since May 2024	281
Number of s.117 cases open	233
Number of carers assessments	12
Nifer o asesiadau o dan y Ddeddf Iechyd Meddwl	133

There was a waiting list for assessment in De Gwynedd for up to 9 weeks at the end of 2024.

This was caused by staff sickness. There is currently no waiting list.

The above performance measures are reported to the quarterly performance scrutiny meeting. It is too early to identify any trends, but our performance measures will be reviewed to ensure that the data collected is meaningful (number of individuals referred to other agencies).

5. Consultation

Several meetings were held with Area Leaders, Social Workers and Mental Health Support Workers to discuss the integrated mental health service and to discuss the best way forward, in terms of the need to re-model, drawing attention to the main challenges and barriers highlighted in Dr Ceryl Davies's report. It became apparent that most staff agreed with the recommendation to remodel the service and were very keen to be involved in the process and to share experiences and any examples of good practice that could be incorporated into the new model.

A number of Workshops were held with staff, drawing up a clear programme of work, to ensure that the main procedures were given full consideration, and that staff had the opportunity to provide input.

The following were discussed:

- Dr Ceryl Davies's report – the research process, the key findings, risks and barriers, workstreams
- Front door and criteria for receiving a service
- Various documents e.g. the assessment document; risk assessment (process); referral form; support plan
- Processes and guidelines – Information Governance / Operating Guidance
- Training needs
- Communication plan
- Policies and procedures (e.g. agreement for information sharing/case review)
- Finance
- Using the operating System (WCCiS)

In addition to consulting with Cyngor Gwynedd staff, BCUHB Senior Managers were given frequent opportunities to provide input on the integrated service, but no response was received. The Council wrote to the Chair of the Health Board to state our intentions but there was no reply.

Since the new service was established in May 2024, there have been 3 meetings with the service to review the new arrangements. These meetings have given us the opportunity to scrutinise the working method and our documents to ensure we are operating in a way that is fit for purpose.

In line with the other services within the Department, the team now records on WCCiS (BCUHB continues to record on paper files). The recording procedure is much more secure and facilitates the Department's audit work.

Customer satisfaction:

We intend to send a questionnaire to individuals who have/ are receiving support from the Service. These findings will steer service development.

Staff satisfaction -

It is quite clear that the remodelling of the service has improved the staff's well-being. Here are some comments by members of the service –

"feel part of the Council"

"the person comes first instead of the process"

"I get to be a Social Worker"

"practice focuses on the strengths of the individual rather than what we are able to offer"

The Area Leaders and Senior Practitioners have attended the meetings of the Community Area Teams to ensure there is an understanding of the service and the criteria and to promote collaboration.

6. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Have you involved residents / service users? If not, when and how do you intend to consult with them?

In May it will be one year since establishing the new service. We intend to send out a simple questionnaire to individuals receiving a service to scrutinise their views on the newly reformed service.

Have you considered collaboration?

There is a statutory duty on all local authorities to act in accordance with the Social Services and Well-being Act (2014). Good joint-working takes place with other local authorities across the region in terms of sharing good practice and information, and with the Health Board at a local level.

What has been done or will be done to prevent problems arising or worsening in the future?

We believe the Department has made an effort to respond to the challenges and is continuing to try to find practical solutions. We cannot predict with any certainty what will be the situation in future, but the number of referrals to the service is increasing and it is essential that we continue to work with our third-sector partners and the wider community to support individuals within their communities.

How have you considered the long term and what people's needs will be in years to come?

The changes to the Service have been introduced to ensure that the Council can fulfil its duties in the long term.

To ensure integration, have you considered the potential impact on other public bodies?

The decision to establish Mental Health Social Services went against the Senedd's desires to ensure integration. The decision was made to safeguard the Council's workforce and to ensure that we meet our statutory obligations. All local authorities across the region have

now established services separate to BCUHB. Nevertheless, close collaboration continues with the services locally.

7. Impact on Equality Characteristics, the Welsh Language and the Socio-Economic Duty

The workforce strives to ensure that the active offer is made when assessing individuals and when engaging with their families. This will be noted on the 'What Matters' assessment.

8. Next Steps

We have made a request to BCUHB to attend their weekly clinical meetings in order to discuss cases and enable us to transfer cases rather than having to make a referral from one service to another.

Groups have been running in Arfon for a number of years and work is ongoing to establish 2 groups in De Gwynedd (Nefyn and Dolgellau). Mental wellbeing affects everyone and therefore these groups will be open to all who access adult services in Gwynedd.

We intend to send a questionnaire to service users to ask their views about the service and find out what can be done better.

9. Appendices

[Lles meddyliol \(Arolwg Cenedlaethol Cymru\): Ebrill 2022 i Mawrth 2023 | LLYW.CYMRU](#)
[Mental well-being \(National Survey for Wales\): April 2022 to March 2023 | GOV.WALES](#)

MMEETING	Care Scrutiny Committee
DATE	03.04.25
TITLE	Progress Report on the Autism Team's Work Programme
REASON FOR SCRUTINY	Reccommendation arising from the work of the Task and Finish Group. / Council Plan 2023-28 – A Caring Gwynedd
AUTHOR	Aled Gibbard, Assistant Head of Service, Children and Family Support Department
CABINET MEMBERS	Councillor Menna Trenholme/ Councillor Dilwyn Morgan

1. Why does it need scrutiny?

A report was submitted to the scrutiny committee in 2023 on the Autism Plan. As a result, a Task and Finish Group was established to look more closely at the plan. The report of the Task and Finish Group was presented to the Scrutiny Committee in April 2024 and it was decided to request a progress report in one year's time.

2. What exactly needs scrutiny?

1. Progress on the work programme since last year
2. Continuation of service following the end of the grant.

3. Summary and key issues

The main message of the report is that the Autism Team is now well established and has made significant progress during the last year.

The Code of Practice is relevant to the whole local authority, as well as the Health Board. The Autism Team was established in Gwynedd in order to tackle a gap in service where autistic individuals did not necessarily meet the criteria for some services. The team's purpose is not to duplicate any other service. Where autistic individuals already receive a service, they do not transfer to the team. However, the team has expertise, and they are available for consultation or to do joint work with other teams. They have a clear focus on offering a service to those individuals who are not already known to other services.

The Autism Plan remains a priority in the council's Plan 2023-28..

The priorities for action over the past year were:

- *Establish links across all social care teams and establish clear processes and liaise with transition age forums and vulnerable adults.*
- *Strengthen the link with the Regional Integrated Autism Service and work alongside them to develop support for autistic individuals in the County.*

- *Strengthen the relationship with the Health Board's Neurodevelopmental Service and offer support during the assessment and diagnosis period.*
- *Engaging with autistic individuals and their families or carers in order to move to co-produce information and local services.*
- *Continue to promote and implement the multi-tiered training scheme across the Council. Conduct an audit of staff training needs, considering individual roles from the point of view of contact with autistic people.*
- *Continue to work in partnership with the National Service.*

4. Background/Context

For the purpose of reporting on progress in this report,, this will be done on the basis of the specific areas within the Code of Practice.

4.1 Access To Information And Advice On The Services Available

- 1. The Local Authority website has been developed and provides clear information about local and national services and resources (such as the National Neuro Service Website). The "Awtistiaeth Gwynedd" web page contains clear information on how to contact social services for help and support. It also includes a link to the Welsh Government's Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 Essentials Guide, which provides information about people's rights.*
- 2. The web pages have been shared and promoted with others, such as Information, Advice and Support (IAA) teams, diagnostic assessment services, local third sector organisations, parent support groups, and schools, surgeries, leisure centers and community groups, and through social media and information days, to help ensure that the information is accessible to those who do not have access to digital information*
- 3. A Directory of Autism services has been developed and the autism team is mapping what is available locally. An online app "Niwro Gwynedd", to bring local information and resources together, is also being developed. It has been developed in consultation with autistic individuals and their families and is expected to be available by the end of April 2025.*
- 4. Information about local services is also available through Dewis Cymru. Efforts have been made to raise awareness in Information, Advice and Support teams of autism or neurodiversity web pages and local directories, to complement the use of Dewis Cymru.*
- 5. Gwynedd family centres offer information, advice and initial support and referral to families where staff have received specific training on autism and a post funded by NDIP is being piloted in their service.*
- 6. The Autism Service provides an Advice and Information service for adults. This service works closely with the Adult Health and Well-being Department. A review of the front door arrangements of the Adult Health and Well-being service is*

currently underway to facilitate access to the service and improve collaboration between services.

- 7. BCUHB's Neurodevelopmental Service has developed a padlet explaining what support is available and a variety of information for parents and carers is available on the BCUHB Website.*
- 8. The North Wales Integrated Autism Service is an important source of information and advice for autistic adults and parents and carers, and will provide face-to-face support.*
- 9. The Neurodiversity Roadshow was arranged by the team, and held in 2 different locations in Gwynedd during February and March 2025. A total of 566 individuals attended these events. 256 of those who attended were on the waiting list for the neurodevelopmental service. 38 different services had information sharing stands at the event. Workshops were also held on ADHD, PDA and Sensory Integration (these workshops were all full). The Autism Bus experience was also available in both events, with a total of 181 individuals attending. Overall there was very positive feedback on the whole event.*

4.2 Support

- 1. Support is available from IAA Services, Families First services, Family Information Services, and early support services, regardless of diagnosis.*
- 2. There is a pathway for an Autistic child with, or suspected of having, a co-occurring learning disability to access Derwen services and is clear, and works well.*
- 3. The Integrated Autism Service does outreach work across North Wales. They hold surgeries and open days for services and the public to promote the service in Gwynedd - these can be coffee mornings, drop-in sessions and they provide services that work with autistic people with networking opportunities. These events help to ensure that everyone knows what is available and can refer people appropriately. High levels of referrals to the Integrated Autism Service suggest a good awareness of the referral pathway. A member of the Autism Team also usually attends these events.*
- 4. Work has begun to review the Council's transition age policy to ensure clarity on the procedure and improve collaboration between services in the transition age forums. As part of the work, support is provided by the North Wales Learning Disability Partnership Group to collaborate with people and families to produce 'easy to read' information about the process.*
- 5. The Council's Autism Service and the Health Board's Neurodevelopmental service continue to work closely together, sharing information to meet the needs of families. The focus is on providing support and referral to understand and meet needs. Although referrals for AD and ADHD assessments continue to be made, there has been a 10% reduction in the last year. The reason for this appears to be the increase in earlier support and referral to services in the local communities.*
- 6. The Regional Partnership Board (RPB), which now has ND as its strategic priority, supported a project in the west to increase support at the front door before referrals are*

made for assessments. This has enabled the use of "What's Matters" conversations early on. The practitioners are available to provide an assessment of what is important and can give advice on assessing the needs and assessments of carers before and after diagnosis.

7. 'Support' groups for parents who are carers (Cuppa and a chat) are held in partnership with the Health Board. A number of parents attend across the county (5 locations in total). The fact that they continue to attend and see new faces monthly is testament to their value. Parents and carers attend to receive information, advice and support (IAA) and to be supported on the right path when navigating services can be difficult especially when they are under stress. It is particularly useful that local authority and health professionals regularly attend to offer IAA. In addition other professionals are invited to talk to parents about specific topics e.g. sleep hygiene, sensory, advocacy etc.

8. We offer a "Cygnet" parenting support programme in Gwynedd, which has received very positive feedback from parents and professionals who have attended. This has led to parents feeling much more confident when parenting and when advocating on behalf of their children.

9. Awtistiaeth Gwynedd provides a consultation service for professionals and works together with children's and adult department teams to ensure that assessments and plans are holistic and inclusive and clearly reflect the needs of autistic individuals and their families. Consideration is given to reasonable adjustments so that individuals and their families can contribute and be central and fully engaged with the care and support needs assessment process.

This proposal also reinforces our work around raising awareness and acceptance of autism. Through consultation workers and teams learn and develop skills and methods of engagement that are neuropositive.

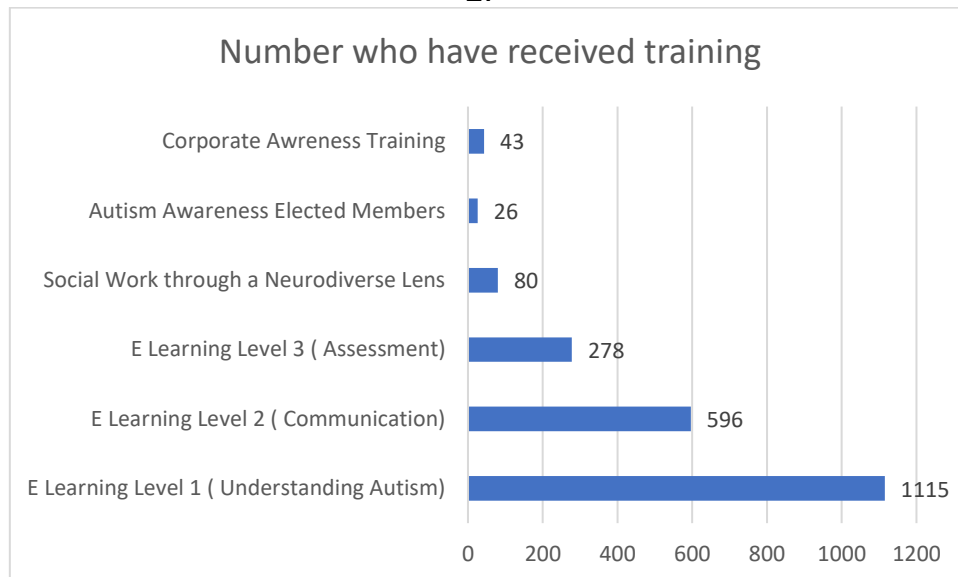
10. Gwynedd Autism provides a direct service by supporting as a secondary worker within social services in order to support autistic individuals with complex needs. We provide a programme of work based on need eg. Identity development, understanding and managing emotions, DBT and more. This helps to move individuals forward following a difficult period. Developing a relationship and trusting a worker is a key part of the work so the team's key workers work for a period in order to achieve results that are desirable for the individual and family. This work has proven to be very successful.

11. As the team has developed it became clear that sensory needs were an element that needed to be strengthened. A sensory integration role was needed to focus and to develop the work. We succeeded in attracting additional funding through the Welsh Government's Neurodevelopmental Programme and a sensory key worker was appointed. The officer receives supervision from an Occupational Therapist.. The team can now offer sensory education and advice to parents/carers and professionals can request a consultation on cases that may have sensory integration difficulties. The team can also offer sensory profiles, working with autistic individuals and their families to get a clearer picture of a person's sensory needs and thereby offer support and guidance on how to meet a need. A sensory resource library has been developed, which is available to professionals to support the families they work with. The resources are available to develop sensory circuits and to identify an individual's sensory needs. It is expensive for families to buy sensory equipment that may not be suitable, so the library is available on a 'try before you buy' basis.

4.3 Workforce Issues/ Training

1. Autism awareness training is compulsory for all members of social care staff, using e-learning resources from Neurodiverse Wales. It is also offered across all Council departments. This focuses on levels 1 (autism aware) and Level 2 (Communication).

2.



3. Autism champions are part of a practice development peer group where they could be informed about new developments, legislation, research and have the opportunity to discuss case examples in order to develop good practice. This enables the information to be shared within the teams.
4. An advanced training programme 'Social work through a neurodiverse lens' (SWthNDL,) is provided by the Gwynedd Autism Team. This training was co-produced with autistic individuals to support workers within social care to understand and accept autism and to develop knowledge and confidence when working with autistic individuals and their families. The workshop training has arisen out of the need to shift attitudes and understanding within the workforce from a pathological pattern over to a social model or a neurodiverse pattern to foster a practice model that focuses more on the individual and based on strengths. It focuses on ensuring that workers have the knowledge and skills to effectively assess care and support needs and provide person-centred outcomes and deliver person-centred outcomes effectively and holistically.
5. As part of the training framework, Gwynedd's aim is to become an autism aware local authority. We promote the online modules offered by the Welsh Government and carry out regular training needs analysis to keep a record. In addition, we are now working with third sector organisations to ensure that services in Gwynedd are autism aware and accept it. It is important that organisations that provide a service to the public can physically demonstrate (a badge in a building window) that it is an organisation that affirms autism/ND and can provide adaptations to meet a need. This is in response to the voice of the autistic neurodevelopmental community who feel they do not have equal access to 'certain' services at the moment or feel they are not understood when contacting professionals..

6. *The National Neuro Service has provided training to Information, Advice and Support (IAA) teams in Gwynedd to raise awareness of their duties under the Code of Practice.*

4.4 Partnership Working

1. *The North Wales Regional Neurodevelopment Group is active. The purpose of the group is to improve working in partnership and make joint decisions for services that support neurodevelopmental individuals in accordance with the implementation of the Code of Practice. This group has been proactive in assessing compliance with the Code.*
2. *Other regional groups, such as the IAS Regional Board, have also been established and include autistic individuals.*
3. *A local stakeholder group in Gwynedd is a recent development with the presence of relevant partners and its aim is to include individuals with lived experience over the coming months.*
4. *Through the Regional Partnership Board a Regional Stakeholders event was organised in Llandudno during March 2025. There was a good attendance from Gwynedd and the purpose of the event was to develop priorities for a regional action plan.*
5. *We have co-produced 'Llwybrau ni', a group for young people aged 14-25, with autistic/ND young people, in north and central Gwynedd. In addition, small focused groups have also been developed across Gwynedd to look at developing autistic identity and psychoeducation.*

4.5 Finance

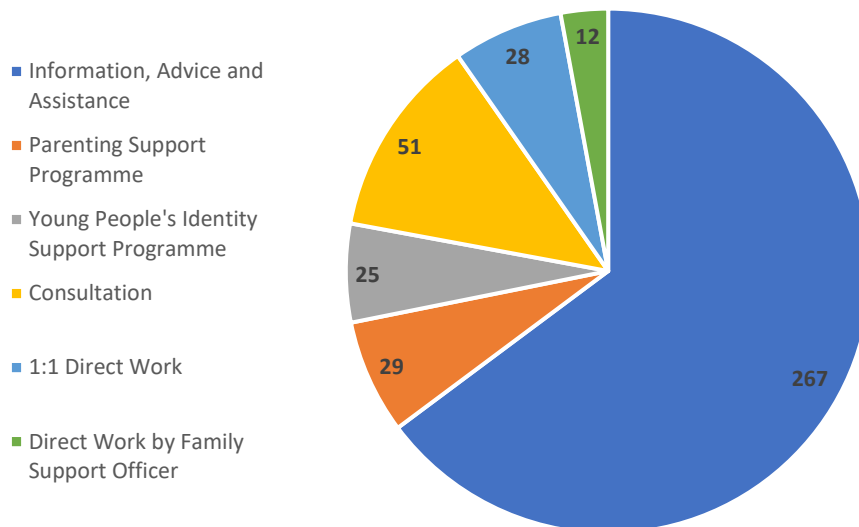
1. *Concern was expressed 12 months ago in the Committee that the plan was funded through a grant. There is no change to that situation during the preparation of this report.*
2. *The team's budget is derived from:*
Regional Integration Fund £240,000
Welsh Government Neurodevelopmental Program £40,000
Gwynedd Council £85,000
3. *The Council's funding is on a permanent basis. However the Government Programmes are over 5 years. At the moment the RIF programme runs until 2027. The Neurodevelopmental Program is funded from year to year. The*

development of Neurodevelopmental services is a priority for the Welsh Government. However we will not know about any subsequent programmes until the current ones are much closer to the end of the plans.

5. Members have asked some specific questions and the answers are provide below:

Question 1:How many people receive a Service each year?

Number of people who have received a service



Question 2: How many people are on a waiting list for the service?

There is no waiting list to receive a service form Gwynedd Autism Team.

Question 3: Do some people who get in touch not receive a service or get refused a Service?

The Team has not refused a Service.

5. Consultation

In preparing this report we have consulted with education and health services related to the autism field. The group work we have is an opportunity to hear the voice of people who have experience of autism and they contribute to and influence the team's work programme when developing services.

6. Future Generations Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2015

We have considered the relevant well-being goals under this act. We already include residents and service users when developing work in this area. In addition, collaboration at a multi-agency level internally and externally is already taking place.



MEETING	CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE	3 April 2025
TITLE	Mid Wales Joint Committee for Health and Care Scrutiny Group
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT	To elect a member to represent the Scrutiny Committee on the Mid Wales Joint Committee for Health and Care Scrutiny Group
AUTHOR	Llywela Haf Owain, Senior Language & Scrutiny Advisor

1. In 2015, the Mid Wales Healthcare Collaborative Group was established in response to the Mid Wales Healthcare Study, which aimed to ensure the effective delivery of healthcare services to the population of Mid Wales. Following recognition by the Welsh Government that Mid Wales was a designated planning area, the Mid Wales Healthcare Collaborative Group was transformed to form the Mid Wales Joint Committee for Health and Care in March 2018.
2. The Strategic Aims of the Mid Wales Joint Committee for Health and Care align with the Welsh Government's long-term plan for the future of health and social care in Wales, 'A Healthier Wales: Our Plan for Health and Social Care'. The Joint Committee vision is that:

"The population of Mid Wales is provided with equitable access to safe, sustainable and high-quality integrated health and care services."
3. The Joint Committee's remit covers Powys, Ceredigion and Meirionnydd.
4. The membership of the Mid Wales Joint Committee for Health and Care includes the Chief Executives of partner healthcare organisations, namely:
 - Hywel Dda University Health Board
 - Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
 - Powys Teaching Health Board
 - Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust
5. Along with representatives from Local Authorities. Gwynedd's representatives on the Joint Committee are the Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Well-being and the Statutory Director of Social Services.
6. The role of the Scrutiny Group is to look at the provision of health and care services in Mid Wales and issues affecting people living in the relevant areas of the counties of Ceredigion, Gwynedd and Powys.

7. It is an opportunity for Councillors from the three counties to scrutinise the provision of health and care services, ask questions about how decisions are made, consider whether service improvements can be made and make recommendations to this effect.
8. Scrutiny plays a vital role in promoting accountability, efficiency and effectiveness in the decision-making process.
9. The Care Scrutiny Committee's current representatives on the Scrutiny Group are Councillors Linda Morgan and John Pughe.
10. Following Councillor Linda Ann Jones' retirement as a member of the Council, another member needs to be elected to represent the Committee on the Scrutiny Group.
11. Scrutiny Group members are invited to attend Joint Committee meetings. Joint Committee meetings are held twice a year:
 - Annual Meeting in April with its main purpose being a planning meeting for the Joint Committee's future workplan.
 - Annual Conference in November which is an opportunity to showcase the work of the Joint Committee and engage with partners and members of the public on its work.
12. The next meeting of the Joint Committee is being held at 10.00am on Friday, the 4th of April 2025 via Microsoft Teams.
13. The role of the members of the Scrutiny Group in the meetings of the Joint Committee is to observe and to ask questions under the item 'Listening to you'. If any Member wishes to receive more information in the form of a report or presentation following a meeting of the Joint Committee, a meeting of the Scrutiny Group will be arranged and held at that time.
14. **The Care Scrutiny Committee is asked to elect a member to represent the Committee on the Mid Wales Joint Committee for Health and Care Scrutiny Group.**