

**SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**5 DECEMBER 2024**

Minutes of the Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held as a hybrid meeting on Thursday, 5 December 2024

**PRESENT:**                   **Councillor Sam Swash (Chair)**  
Councillors: Mike Allport, Mel Buckley, Tina Claydon, Steve Cople, Gladys Healey, Fran Lister, Dave Mackie, Gina Maddison, Billy Mullin, Debbie Owen and Arnold Woolley

**ALSO PRESENT:**       Councillors: Hilary McGuill, Paul Johnson, Richard Jones attended as observers

**CONTRIBUTORS:**       Councillor Christine Jones (Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing); Chief Officer (Social Services); Senior Manager – Safeguarding and Commissioning; Corporate Finance Manager, Service Manager – Older People and Senior Manager – Children.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**       Social Care and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator and Democratic Services Officer

**27.    APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR ([Link to recording](#))**

**RESOLVED:**

That the appointment of Councillor Sam Swash as Chair of the Committee for the remaining 2024/25 municipal year be noted.

**28.    APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR ([Link to recording](#))**

**RESOLVED:**

That Councillor Gladys Healey be appointed Vice-Chair for the remaining 2024/25 municipal year.

**29.    DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING DECLARATIONS)**

No declarations of interest were made.

**30.    MINUTES ([Link to recording](#))**

The [minutes \(agenda item number 5\)](#) of the meetings held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024 were presented for approval.

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**31. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKING ([Link to recording](#))**

The Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator presented the current [Forward Work Programme \(agenda item number 6\)](#) for consideration, which included an update on outstanding actions.

It was agreed that the report on the Re-Commissioning of Carers Services be moved to the February meeting and that a visit to the new NEWCIS Centre in Mold be undertaken prior to that meeting.

Members were advised that the Climbie visit was in the process of being arranged for January/February.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the Forward Work Programme be noted;
- (b) That the Facilitator, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee, be authorised to vary the Forward Work Programme between meetings, as the need arises; and
- (c) That the Committee notes the progress made in completing the outstanding actions.

**32. BUDGET 2025/26 – STAGE 2 ([Link to recording](#))**

The Corporate Finance Manager presented a [report \(agenda item number 7\)](#) for Members to review and comment on cost pressures under the remit of the Committee.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That Members review and comment on the Social Services portfolio's cost pressures; and
- (b) That the Committee were assured that the cost pressures were an essential requirement for the 2025/26 budget and that there was no scope to remove/defer them to assist with dealing with the budget challenge.

**33. RESPONSE TO THE AUDIT WALES REVIEW “URGENT AND EMERGENCY CARE: FLOW OUT OF HOSPITAL – NORTH WALES REGION” ([Link to recording](#))**

The Service Manager, Older People presented a [report \(agenda item number 8\)](#) for members to consider the Wales Audit report and the measures taken regionally and locally to implement any recommendations made.

The Chief Officer (Social Services) agreed to share action plans as requested by Councillor Copple and that a further update report would be provided in July 2025.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That members consider the Wales Audit report and the measures being taken regionally and locally to implement the recommendations made; and
- (b) That members note that the Government and Audit Committee was updated on progress in addressing the recommendations made.

**34. FRAMEWORK OF SUPPORT: SUSTAINABLE APPROACH TO ADULT SOCIAL CARE ([Link to recording](#))**

The Chief Officer (Social Services) presented a [report \(agenda number item 9\)](#) for Members to support changes to the financial assessment and charging for Domiciliary Care and Residential Care Services.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Owen the Senior Manager – Safeguarding and Commissioning agreed to provide members with a link to Dewis Cymru where a comprehensive list of services, organisations and events that support individuals within their community could be found.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That members support the actions being taken to develop the Framework of Support as part of a range of transformational projects that would be required to develop sustainable social services; and
- (b) That members endorse associated actions needed to respond to demand pressures and support domiciliary and residential care budget pressures.

**35. FINANCIAL ASSESSMENTS AND CHARGING TEAM ([Link to recording](#))**

The Senior Manager – Safeguarding and Commissioning presented a [report \(agenda item number 10\)](#) to provide Members with information regarding the work undertaken within the Financial Assessment and Charging Team.

**RESOLVED:**

That Members acknowledge and support the work being undertaken by the Financial Assessment and Charging Team in delivering services to the residents of Flintshire.

**36. FUTURE OF INTEGRATED COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH TEAM (CMHT) ([Link to recording](#))**

The Senior Manager – Safeguarding and Commissioning introduced the report and the Service Manager Disability Services presented the [report \(agenda item number 11\)](#) for members to consider a proposal to cease an integrated CMHT partnership with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That members accept the proposal contained within the report; and

- (b) That Members determine the process to achieve political support for the proposal.

**37. SOCIAL SERVICES CARE INSPECTORATE WALES, PERFORMANCE EVALUATION INSPECTION NOVEMBER 2023 – ACTION PLAN UPDATE ([Link to recording](#))**

The Chief Officer (Social Services), Senior Manager – Safeguarding and Commissioning and Senior Manager – Children presented the [report \(agenda item number 12\)](#) to update members on the progress of implementing the resulting action plan

**RESOLVED:**

That Members acknowledge and support the progress made in implementing the action plan.

**38. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SAFEGUARDING HUB ([Link to recording](#))**

The Senior Manager – Children presented the [report \(agenda item number 13\)](#) outlining the strengths and challenges from the newly established Safeguarding Hub.

**RESOLVED:**

That Social and Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee noted the outcome of the report and supported the resulting Action Plan.

**39. MOCKINGBIRD FOSTERING PROJECT ([Link to recording](#))**

The Senior Manager – Children presented the [report \(agenda item number 14\)](#) to update members on the progress of the implementation of the Mockingbird model of care and agreed to provide members with an analysis of outcomes comparing Mockingbird placements.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That Members review progress in implementing the Mockingbird model in Flintshire and noted the associated achievements including securing placement stability for looked after children; and
- (b) That Members supported a detailed valuation of impact and benefits realisation when the programme had reached full implementation in 2025.

**40. SOCIAL SERVICES WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT REPORT ([Link to recording](#))**

The Senior Manager – Safeguarding and Commissioning presented the [report \(agenda item number 15\)](#) to update Members on the work undertaken by the Social Services Workforce Development Team over the past 12 months, including details relating to recruitment activity in Social Services

**RESOLVED:**

That Members acknowledged and supported the work being undertaken to support the social care workforce through learning & development opportunities.

**41. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE**

None.

(The meeting started at 1.00pm and ended at 4.25pm)

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**Chair**

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