

# Health & Social Services Scrutiny Committee

# Annual Report 2024-25

# Scrutiny in Carmarthenshire

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Cyngor **Sir Gâr**  
**Carmarthenshire**  
County Council

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## Contents

Chair's Foreword .....	3
1. Introduction .....	5
2. Overview of the Work of the Committee in 2024/25 .....	5
2.1 The Role of Scrutiny .....	5
2.2 The Forward Work Plan .....	6
2.3 Meetings of the Health & Social Services Scrutiny Committee .....	7
2.4 Performance Monitoring / Strategic Issues.....	7
2.4.1 Carmarthenshire County Council Annual Report 2023/24 .....	7
2.4.2 Draft Divisional Business Plans 2025/26 .....	7
2.4.3 Statutory Director of Social Services' Annual Report 2023/24.....	8
2.4.4 2024/25 Performance Reports relevant to the Committee.....	8
2.4.5 Actions and Referrals.....	8
2.5 Revenue & Capital Budgets .....	9
2.5.1 Budget Monitoring Reports.....	9
2.5.2 Revenue Budget Strategy 2025/26 to 2027/28.....	9
2.6 Health & Social Care .....	10
2.6.1 Direct Payments.....	10
2.6.2 Performance Report against the Cabinet Vision Action & Measures .....	10
2.6.3 Charging Policy – Social Care Charges Amendments to Current Policy.....	10
2.6.4 Domiciliary Care Performance Update .....	11
2.6.5 Prevention Strategy for Carmarthenshire. ....	11
2.6.6 Interim Report on the Implementation of the Dementia Strategy and a Position Statement Regarding Dementia Care in Carmarthenshire .....	11
2.6.7 Llesiant Delta Wellbeing Annual Report .....	12
2.6.8 Corporate Safeguarding Annual Report 2023/24 & 2024/25.....	12
2.6.9 Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Children & Adults Boards Annual Report 2023-2024	12
2.7 Children & Families Service .....	12
2.7.1 Children and Families Services Transformation Programme Updates.....	12
2.7.2 Early Help Strategy Update.....	13
2.7.3 Annual Youth Justice Plan 2024/25.....	13
3. Other Scrutiny Activity .....	14
3.1 Task & Finish .....	14
3.2 Site Visits .....	14
3.3 Development Sessions.....	14
4. Impact .....	15
3.1 How has Scrutiny Made a Difference This Year? .....	15
5. Public Engagement .....	16
6. Challenges .....	16
7. Future Work .....	16

8. Support for the Scrutiny Function ..... 17

9. Attendance ..... 18

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## Chair's Foreword



We are at the end of another municipal year and as Chair of the Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee it is my privilege once more to present the Committee's Annual Report for the year 2024 – 2025, providing an overview of the work undertaken by Committee members over the year.

Committee continues to hold pre-meetings, normally a day prior to the formal meeting, which members find invaluable in facilitating a thorough understanding of subject matters in advance of detailed scrutiny of agenda items during the meeting itself.

Every committee member has an opportunity to input into an agreed Forward Work Plan which is regularly reviewed throughout the year and additional items added as deemed necessary. In consultation with officers, reviewing and monitoring the Forward Work Plan has become an important aspect of the Committee's remit.

The report highlights the wide range of service delivery areas that were presented and duly considered during the year together with budget and performance monitoring, quality assurance arrangements, and critically, progress updates on key issues such as alignment and integration with Health and the transformative actions being undertaken to address the Children Services' budget position.

I, and committee members continue to recognise that the service areas within Committees remit operate within an extremely challenging and relentlessly demanding environment, facing what is often described as "a perfect storm" of increasing need, staff shortages, difficulties in recruitment and hostage to inflated charges demanded by certain private sector providers operating within a nationally broken market.

The Well-being of Future Generations Act, our Corporate Strategy and Wellbeing Objectives all emphasise the need for increased collaboration with partners and our communities in developing new ways of working in addressing ever increasing need. Committee have therefore endeavoured to ensure that regular progress reports on these collaborative aims are reported upon and scrutinised. This area will be the subject of in-depth scrutiny during 2025/2026 via a series of development sessions.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Cllr Tremlett, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Services and all the Officers who have been in attendance, and provided explanation, expert advice and generally inputted at our Scrutiny meetings throughout the year. A particular thank you and appreciation to our valued Democratic Support Officer, Emma Bryer, for her professional guidance and general support in ensuring that meetings run smoothly.

Finally, it may be an understatement to express that these are challenging times for everyone associated with Health and Social Care. As a committee we would like to thank every single member of staff for their unstinting dedication, commitment and tireless hard work in trying to ensure that everything possible is being done to provide those in need of support with the most appropriate level of care to which they are entitled.

Diolch yn fawr i chi gyd.

**Councillor Gareth John**

**Chair of the Health & Social Services Scrutiny Committee**

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## 1. Introduction

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

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

This report highlights the work undertaken by the Health & Social Services Scrutiny Committee during the 2024/25 municipal year. It aims to provide members with an opportunity to reflect on its achievements, identify areas of best practice and highlight areas for improvement to further enhance the scrutiny function. Additionally, this report may facilitate discussion on items which could be identified for inclusion within future work programmes.

The Committee is chaired by Councillor Gareth John and is made up of 14 Elected Members. Cabinet Members attend meetings as required in order to address the Committee on areas within their respective portfolios.

Support is provided by the Democratic Services Unit and other Council officers, as and when required.

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## 2. Overview of the Work of the Committee in 2024/25

### 2.1 The Role of Scrutiny

The Scrutiny Committee remits were updated by Council following the May 2022 elections and each Scrutiny Committee became responsible for the overview and scrutiny of specific Cabinet Portfolios and their respective services. The Health & Social Services Committee is responsible for the scrutiny of Cabinet's Health and Social Services portfolio and the respective service areas as detailed below:-

Adult Social Services	Ageing Well
Residential Care including in-house residential homes	Assessment and Care Management
Home Care including in-house home care and reablement services	Older People and frailty
Learning Disabilities	Integrated Services to include NHS liaison and collaboration between health and social care
Mental Health	Physical Disability and Sensory Impairments
Direct Payments	CYP Board Member
Carers	CAHMS Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
Dementia Care	Corporate Parenting Lead

Children's Social Services	Community Support Services
Adult Safeguarding	Fostering Services
Adoption Services	Respite
Care Inspectorate Wales	Prevention Strategy
Older Peoples Commissioner	Supporting Families
Commissioned Services	Safeguarding Children
Early Years, Family Support and Prevention	Complex Needs Transition
Parenting and Child Welfare	Child Protection Coordinator
Safeguarding West and Adoption	Safeguarding East and Service Improvement
Age Friendly Champion	Corporate Safeguarding

In accordance with its areas of responsibilities, the Health & Social Services Scrutiny Committee will seek to:-

- Examine how well the Cabinet and Council are performing;
- Hold the Cabinet to account and seek to promote open and transparent decision-making;
- Monitor the performance of the Council's services and functions;
- Review decisions made by the Cabinet where appropriate;
- Assist the Cabinet in the development, monitoring and review of policy;
- Scrutinise, as a key element of the consultation process, the proposed revenue budget strategy and capital investment programmes;
- Enable the participation of external organisations and partners in consideration of issues that may impact upon the delivery of Council and countywide priorities.

## 2.2 The Forward Work Plan

Scrutiny plays a key role in promoting accountability in the decision-making process of the Local Authority. It is also useful in ensuring that Council policies reflect current priorities, as well as promoting efficiency and encouraging partnership working with external agencies.

In order for Scrutiny Committees to take on greater ownership of their own Forward Work Plans, a pre-decision method of scrutiny was introduced in September 2022 which allows Scrutiny Committees to decide which reports from the Cabinet Forward Work Plan they wish to come before them. As per normal process, Committees are also able to identify their own topics and Cabinet are still able to invite a Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise a decision which was in the pipeline.

The Committee utilised the Centre for Governance & Scrutiny's Gateway framework to develop its Forward Work Plan for the 2024/25 municipal year which was reviewed on a regular basis. This provided a manageable, flexible, and robust approach to scrutiny and ensured that the areas for review were considered on a priority basis and in a timely manner.

In the main, meeting agendas were consistent with those outlined in the Forward Work Plan although a total of 13 non-submissions were received during the year.

## 2.3 Meetings of the Health & Social Services Scrutiny Committee

Meetings are scheduled on a 6-8 weekly basis to consider issues and reports included in its Forward Plan. The Committee held 7 formal meetings during the 2024/25 municipal year and all meetings were conducted in accordance with the provisions set out within Section 47 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

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

## 2.4 Performance Monitoring / Strategic Issues

One of the principal roles of the Health & Social Services Scrutiny Committee is to monitor the performance of services and functions within its remit. Accordingly, the Committee reviews performance monitoring reports and various strategies and plans to provide a balanced assessment of performance across the relevant service areas.

### 2.4.1 Carmarthenshire County Council Annual Report 2023/24

In October, 2024 the Committee considered the Council's Annual Report 2023/24 which had been produced in accordance with the relevant provisions within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Local Government and Elections Act (Wales) 2021. The report detailed the progress made with the Council's 13 Well-being Objectives (WBO) together with the Council's self-assessment against the performance requirements of the previous financial year. The Committee focused upon the 4 Well-Being Objectives falling within its remit, namely:

- WBO 1**      Enabling our children and young people to have the best possible Start in Life (Start Well)
- WBO 2**      Enabling our residents to live and age well (Live & Age Well)
- WBO 3**      Enabling our communities and environment to be healthy, safe, and prosperous (Prosperous Communities)
- WBO 4**      Our Council: To further modernise and develop as a resilient and efficient Council. Is Anyone Better Off?

#### **Outcome:**

- The Committee requested an update on the take up for the exercise referral scheme (NERS), this was received by the Committee in October.
- The Committee requested comparative data regarding domiciliary care in care homes and for residents in their own homes. This was circulated to the Committee in October.

### 2.4.2 Draft Divisional Business Plans 2025/26

In February 2025 the Committee received for consideration the draft Divisional Services Business Plans relevant to the Communities Directorate & Education & Children for 2025/26, as follows:-

- Integrated Services



- Commissioning & Business Support
- Adult Social Care Services
- Children's & Family Services

These plans set out the strategic actions and measures to be implemented within each Division in order for the Council to progress with its well-being objectives, thematic priorities and service priorities. This provided the Committee with an opportunity to consider and comment upon the priorities outlined for the Division.

**Outcome:**

The Committee reviewed the proposed actions and measures and unanimously resolved that the business plans be received.

### **2.4.3 Statutory Director of Social Services' Annual Report 2023/24**

In accordance with the statutory requirement for the Director of Social Services to provide an annual report on delivery, performance and improvement plans for Social Services. The report was considered by the Committee at its meeting in October 2024.

**Outcome:**

A request was made to include additional information in the report regarding the work of Llesiant Delta Wellbeing given its significant role within the Authority.

### **2.4.4 2024/25 Performance Reports relevant to the Committee**

These reports enabled members to monitor performance in respect of the Well-being Objectives relevant to the Committee's remit and aligned to the Authority's Corporate Strategy. The information provided a self-evaluation of performance in accordance with the reformed legislative framework enshrined within Part 6 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. The reports were circulated to members as follows:-

- October 2024 – Quarter 1 Performance Monitoring 2024/25
- February 2025 – Quarter 2 Performance Monitoring 2024/25
- March 2025 – Quarter 3 Performance Monitoring 2024/25

### **2.4.5 Actions and Referrals**

During the course of the municipal year, requests for additional items were made by members of the Committee to assist them in discharging their scrutiny role. Updates on Actions and Referrals were presented to the Committee at its meetings held in October, February and April which detailed the progress made in relation to these requests.

## 2.5 Revenue & Capital Budgets

### 2.5.1 Budget Monitoring Reports

In accordance with the protocols established by the Committee, quarterly reports on the departmental and corporate revenue and capital budgets were circulated to members as follows:-

- October 2024 - in respect of the budgetary position as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024.
- October 2024 – Ottturn Report 2023/24 end of year financial position.
- November 2024 - in respect of the budgetary position as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024.
- February 2025 - in respect of the budgetary position as at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024.
- March 2025 - in respect of the budgetary position as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.
- April 2025 - in respect of the budgetary position as at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

The reports enabled members to monitor expenditure in each service area and the progress made in connection with any capital works. Members were afforded the opportunity to raise any concerns or matters which required further consideration at the Committee's formal meeting, in accordance with Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

#### **Outcome:**

The Committee expressed concerns throughout the year about the timeliness of budget monitoring reports as the data was out of date by the time it was received by the Committee. Officers were asked to consider reviewing the timing and format of the budget monitoring reports. To date no progress has been made in resolving this issue.

**October 2024** – the Committee asked if reference to the recent Task & Finish report on obesity (An Active & Healthy Start) could be included in the report.

**November 2024** – the Committee requested information regarding the Home Office funding provided for unaccompanied child asylum seekers. This information was received by the Committee in February 2025.

- The Committee requested information regarding the legal costs associated with the Commissioning and Social Work within children and Families (at the time of writing this information had not been received).

- Additional information was requested regarding the £327k home care fund for various projects. This information was circulated to members in January 2025.

**February 2025** – Questions were raised regarding the demand and complexity of mental health cases. The Members received a presentation following the meeting.

**March 2025** – the report was received.

**April 2025** – the report was received.

### 2.5.2 Revenue Budget Strategy 2025/26 to 2027/28

In addition to monitoring the current revenue and capital budgets, the Committee was also consulted on the Revenue Budget Strategy 2025/26 to 2027/28 at its meeting in February 2025. The report provided the Committee with the proposed Revenue Budget Strategy for 2025/26, together with indicative figures for the 2026/2027 and 2027/28 financial years.

### **Outcome:**

As part of the Authority's widespread consultation undertaken on the Revenue Budget Strategy 2025/26, the Committee considered the Strategy and commented on and received the report.

## **2.6 Health & Social Care**

### **2.6.1 Direct Payments**

In July 2024 the Committee reviewed the Direct Payments report which they had previously requested. The report provided an update on the direct payments service in Carmarthenshire and set out the progress that had been made since the management and support function was transferred to the Authority.

### **Outcome:-**

Numerous questions and queries had been raised by the committee regarding direct payments following which this report was requested due to concerns that payments may not be spent appropriately.

The Committee unanimously resolved to receive the report.

### **2.6.2 Performance Report against the Cabinet Vision Action & Measures**

The Committee scrutinised the performance report against the Cabinet Vision Action and Measures which detailed the progress of the deliverables for the Cabinet Vision at its meeting in July. The reports were due to be considered quarterly but at the request of officers, the report was removed from the plan as it was considered that the information was also included within the performance report considered by scrutiny twice yearly.

### **Outcome:**

- An update was requested on the acquisition and development of the Llanelli home. This update was provided to the Committee in February 2025.
- An explanation was requested on how and why the number of children on the at-risk register had reduced. The Committee received the information in February 2025.
- The committee requested to know how many adopters were now in place following the recruitment of the Marketing Recruitment Officer. The information was provided in February 2025.
- An update was requested on the collaborative work undertaken with Foster Wales in increasing and improving the recruitment and retention of foster carers. The committee received this information in February 2025.

### **2.6.3 Charging Policy – Social Care Charges Amendments to Current Policy**

In October 2024 the Committee considered the proposed changes to the Social Care Charging Policy.

The Committee noted that there would be an annual fee of £520 plus an additional fee of £100 for new referrals.

**Outcome:**

The Committee unanimously resolved that the report be received.

#### **2.6.4 Domiciliary Care Performance Update**

In November 2024 (update 5) and April 2025 (update 6) the Committee scrutinised the Domiciliary Care Performance Update Report which they had previously requested. The reports included the latest available data captured for Quarters 1 and 2 for 2024/25 and Quarters 3 and 4 for 2024/25.

**Outcome:**

**November** - The Committee referenced concerns within community pharmacies on the level of funding received from Welsh Government and their ability to continue to provide community services. The Head of Integrated Services requested additional information to enable her to assess whether this would have an impact on Council services.

**April** – The Committee resolved that the report be received and that future reports would be biannual.

#### **2.6.5 Prevention Strategy for Carmarthenshire.**

In November 2024, the Committee considered a report it had requested on the current position of the development of the Prevention Strategy for Carmarthenshire.

The Committee noted that there was currently no prevention strategy in place for Carmarthenshire or for the Hywel Dda Region and the closest report of a similar nature was the 'Prevention, Early Intervention, Promoting Independent Living Carmarthenshire: A Resilient Community' that was developed in 2016.

Therefore, it was acknowledged that a prevention strategy which took into account the current position and set out the prevention vision for the future was required.

**Outcome:**

The Committee unanimously resolved that the report be received.

#### **2.6.6 Interim Report on the Implementation of the Dementia Strategy and a Position Statement Regarding Dementia Care in Carmarthenshire**

In November 2024, the Committee received for consideration an interim report on the implementation of the Dementia Strategy together with a Position Statement on Dementia Care in Carmarthenshire.

**Outcome:**

The Committee unanimously resolved to approve the proposed strategic focus for the future of the work on Dementia in Carmarthenshire.

**2.6.7 Llesiant Delta Wellbeing Annual Report**

In November 2024, the Committee received the Annual Report 2023/24 for Llesiant Delta Wellbeing

**Outcome:**

The Committee received the Llesiant Delta Wellbeing Annual Report for 2023/24.

**2.6.8 Corporate Safeguarding Annual Report 2023/24 & 2024/25**

In March 2025, the Committee received for consideration a report which provided information on the role, functions and activities undertaken by the Authority with regard to Safeguarding and protecting children and adults at risk.

**Outcome:**

The Committee received the report.

**2.6.9 Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Children & Adults Boards Annual Report 2023-2024**

In March 2025, the Committee received for consideration a report which outlined the progress that had been made against the outcomes set by YSUR and CWMPAS as part of the joint Annual Strategic Plan for the year 2023-24.

**Outcome:**

The Committee requested Carmarthenshire only data and asked that concerns regarding judicial review counsel costs be raised at the next meeting of the Mid & West Wales Safeguarding Children & Adults Board.

**2.7 Children & Families Service**

**2.7.1 Children and Families Services Transformation Programme Updates**

In June 2024 the Committee reviewed the Children and Families Services Transformation Programme Update 1 which they had requested following concerns regarding the current position within Children's Service.

The report provided the first update on the progress of the Children and Families Services Transformation Plan that was developed to manage future demand and achieve a

balanced budget. The report set out the progress of the transformation programme to date and the ambition over the next four years.

In October 2024, the committee reviewed the latest update and noted that the service had developed a vision and principles required for a modern children's social services function.

In April 2025, the committee reviewed the latest update and noted that the service had revised the workstreams to reflect the need to focus on priority areas of the plan. The key areas of focus were to deliver the proposal for children's homes, identify land for the new-build of children's home, recruit for the remaining vacant posts and commission a range of supported accommodation for young people.

**Outcome:**

The Committee agreed that the report be received and requested that regular progress update reports be submitted in the 2025/26 municipal year.

### **2.7.2 Early Help Strategy Update**

In November 2024 and March 2025 the Committee considered reports on the development of the 'Early Help Strategy' for Children and Young People detailing how Carmarthenshire ensured families received accessible, co-ordinated Early Help when needed. These reports were requested following a request received in November 2023 from the WAVE Trust requesting that the committee explore whether

- there were any gaps in the existing provisions that were in place within Carmarthenshire around the area of preconception and early years support.
- there were any gaps in the existing provisions that were in place within Carmarthenshire pertaining to front facing services such as housing, revenue and benefits and linked services such as Job Centre Plus regarding the implementation of trauma informed practices and/or trauma informed approaches.

**Outcome:**

The Committee agreed that the report be received.

### **2.7.3 Annual Youth Justice Plan 2024/25**

In February 2025, the Committee evaluated the Authority's Youth Justice Plan for 2024/25. The Plan outlined the provision of the Youth Support Service and the Youth Justice Team under a single management structure which provided a holistic approach to the delivery of youth support services across Carmarthenshire. The Youth Justice Plan also detailed the performance of the partnership during 2023/24 and also set out the priorities and improvement planning objectives in accordance with the overarching 'child first' principles and an ethos of continuous improvement.

**Outcome:**

The Committee agreed that the report be received and suggested that the figures cited regarding the Children and Looked After (CLA) would be more informative if it included National comparison data.

### 3. Other Scrutiny Activity

#### 3.1 Task & Finish

The Committee did not undertake a Task & Finish review this municipal year due to the ongoing review of the 'An Active & Healthy Start' report by the Corporate Management team resulting in delay of the approval of the final report by the Cabinet.

#### 3.2 Site Visits

The Committee did not undertake site visits during 2024/2025.

#### 3.3 Development Sessions

During the 2024/25 municipal year, Committee Members were invited to the following development sessions/seminars facilitated by the Authority:-

Date	Development Session / Seminar
22/05/2024	Introduction to the work of the Pembrokeshire & Carmarthenshire Coroner
14/06/2024	Introduction to Thinqi – New Learning Management System
10/07/2024	Highway Surfacing & Maintenance
25/07/2024	S106 Agreements
11/09/2024	Environmental Protection – Food Standards & Public Health
26/09/2024	Corporate Safeguarding
09/10/2024	Pentre Awel Update
21/10/2024	Transport for Wales – Bus Franchising Briefing – Key priorities
29/10/2024 & 30/10	Dementia Friends Awareness
12/11/2024	Building Cyber Resilience: Safeguarding Our Council's Digital Future
20/11/2024	Winter Preparedness
10/12/2024	WLGA Role & Key Responsibilities
11/12/2024	Chief Fire Officer Annual Update
29/01/2025	Nutrient Management – National Guidance & Challenges
05/02/2025	Regional Transport Plan
12/02/2025	Elected Officials – Personal Security Briefing



12/02/2025	One Planet Development
18/02/2025	WLGA Scrutiny Self Assessment Workshop – Session 1
24/02/2025	WLGA Scrutiny Self Assessment Workshop – Session 2
09/04/2025	Regional Transport Plan Drop In Event
09/04/2025	Thinqi Learning Management System – Drop In Event
07/05/2025	Refresher Training on the Members Code of Conduct

In addition to the above Corporate Development sessions / seminars, members attended several budget seminars held during January as part of the Council's consultation process on the 2025-26 Revenue Budget and the five-year capital programme. The Committee also held the following bespoke sessions:

Date	Development Session / Seminar
13/06/24	Mental Health including Suicide and Self Harm
03/02/25	Mental Health & Wellbeing
30/04/25	Forward Plan

## 4. Impact

### 3.1 How has Scrutiny Made a Difference This Year?

The majority of decisions made by the Authority are made by the Cabinet. Scrutiny offers the other 65 non-executive Councillors an opportunity to influence those decisions and act as a "critical friend". Pre-decision Scrutiny is particularly influential in this regard as it provides Scrutiny Committees with the opportunity to consider and comment upon policies and emerging issues before they are considered by Cabinet. Scrutiny also assists in ensuring that Council policies reflect current priorities, as well as promoting efficiency and encouraging effective partnership working with external bodies.

Scrutiny plays a key role in improving the services used by the people and children of Carmarthenshire. The scrutiny function is also useful in ensuring that Council policies reflect current priorities, as well as promoting efficiency and encouraging effective partnership working with external bodies. The involvement of local residents, community organisations and partners is an important part of the scrutiny process and Councillors are committed to responding to the views and concerns of residents.

Pre-decision Scrutiny affords all Scrutiny Committees the opportunity of providing input before the reports are considered by Cabinet and this is the voice of the people. During the 2024/25 municipal year, the Health & Social Services Scrutiny Committee has made a positive impact in many ways, including:-

- Providing comments and observations to inform strategies and policies.
- Making the work of Council open and transparent.



- By undertaking its gatekeeping role in monitoring the work of the Cabinet and ensuring that the budgetary issues are addressed and managed effectively.

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## 5. Public Engagement

The Scrutiny function provides the opportunity for public participation in the Authority's activities whereby members of the public can request items to be placed on the Committee's meeting agenda. Carmarthenshire residents, or those who own a business or are employed within the county are also permitted to ask questions at meetings of the Scrutiny Committee.

Whilst the Committee did not receive any suggestions of possible topics from members of the public during 2024/25, the Committee's Forward Work Plan included a range of topics which required public consultation/participation.

In order to promote public awareness of Scrutiny Committees and the ability of the public to put forward topics for discussion, the Forward Work Plans of the Authority's Scrutiny Committees and details of how the public can become involved, are published on the Authority's website:-

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/committees-meetings/scrutiny/#.Xp7Am6aQxMs>

During the municipal year, the Authority's Communications division provided digital marketing support to the Scrutiny function and proactively promoted details of forthcoming items which may be of interest to the public in an attempt to raise public awareness and participation. The public are invited, via a number of different avenues, to get involved in the Scrutiny process and to highlight any issues of concern.

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## 6. Challenges

Both Communities and Children & Families Services continued to be under pressure throughout the municipal year due to demand on services and budgetary pressures. Nevertheless, the departments have adapted and developed innovative solutions during unprecedented circumstances to meet the needs of service user in Carmarthenshire. The Committee has continued to be constructive in its role in scrutinising performance which has facilitated the department and positively contributed to policies and decisions. It has been a balancing act for the Committee in undertaking its scrutiny duty without impacting on the resourcing of front-line services.

However, the Committee has found it challenging to undertake its budget monitoring role effectively due to the timeliness of the data received and has asked that more current data be provided for future meetings.

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## 7. Future Work

The Committee has made significant progress during the municipal year and will continue to concentrate on topics where members' input will result in positive outcomes to drive

forward service improvement. To ensure that the best use is being made of meeting time, the Committee is keen to continue implementing the principles of the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny in order to achieve a streamlined and focused scrutiny process.

The work of the Committee during the 2025/26 municipal year will be considered by the Committee at a development planning session on the 30<sup>th</sup> April and will be regularly reviewed as part of the monitoring of the Forward Work Plan during the course of the year.

In order to enhance the Authority's Scrutiny function, members will continue to attend development sessions, seek officers' advice where appropriate and make full use of informal pre-meeting discussion.

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## 8. Support for the Scrutiny Function

Support for Carmarthenshire County Council's Scrutiny function is provided by the Democratic Services Unit, based within the Law, Governance and Civil Services Division of the Chief Executive's Department. Support for the scrutiny function includes:-

- formulating and despatching agendas for Scrutiny Committee meetings in accordance with the Forward Work Plans;
- providing support and constitutional advice to the Scrutiny Committees and to members of those Committees as well as producing minutes of their meetings and ensuring any issues arising from those meetings are actioned;
- giving support and advice in relation to the functions of the Council's Scrutiny Committees to members of the Council and its officers;
- managing the strategic development of Scrutiny in Carmarthenshire by engaging in national and regional Scrutiny networks and initiatives, supporting the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Scrutiny Forum and meetings of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Scrutiny with the Cabinet;
- advising and supporting the implementation of the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Local Government and Elections Act (Wales) 2021, as and when guidance is published;
- managing the co-ordination and development of the Scrutiny Committees' Forward Work Plans in conjunction with Scrutiny Committee members;
- managing and co-ordinating Scrutiny review work, including the administration of scrutiny Task and Finish Groups, assisting in writing reports in conjunction with the Groups and assisting in the implementation and monitoring of completed reviews.
- Assisting with the Scrutiny Member Development Programme.

For more information on Scrutiny in Carmarthenshire including Forward Work Plans, Task & Finish reports and Annual Reports, please visit the County Council's website at: [www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/scrutiny](http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/scrutiny).

To contact the Democratic Services Unit, please call 01267 224028 or e-mail [scrutiny@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@carmarthenshire.gov.uk).

## 9. Attendance

Attendance by members of the Health & Social Services Scrutiny Committee during the 2024/25 municipal year is shown in the table below. A total of seven meetings were held during the municipal year.

Committee Member	Meetings Attended	%
Cllr. Bryan Davies	7	100%
Cllr. Crish Davies	6	86%
Cllr. Karen Davies	6	86%
Cllr. Michelle Donoghue	6	86%
Cllr. Alex Evans	6	86%
Cllr. Meinir James	7	100%
Cllr. Gareth John	7	100%
Cllr. Hefin Jones	3	43%
Cllr. Denise Owen	6	86%
Cllr. Louvain Roberts	3	43%
Cllr. Fiona Walters	5	71%
Cllr. Phil Warlow	7	100%
Cllr. Janet Williams	7	100%
Cllr. Steve Williams	6	86%

Substitutes	Meetings Attended
Cllr. Jean Lewis	1
Cllr. Tyssul Evans	1
Cllr. Terry Davies	1
Cabinet Member	Meetings Attended
Cllr. Jane Tremlett (Health & Social Services)	5
Cllr. Alun Lenny (Resources)	3