

March 2026

Dear Members of the Child Poverty Working Group,

RE: Overview and Scrutiny Committee Child Poverty Working Group

I write on behalf of Cabinet to formally respond to your report and the 18 recommendations agreed in principle by Cabinet on 2nd of February 2026.

Firstly, we would like to express our gratitude for the diligence, care, and evidence informed approach you took when conducting this work. The report shows meaningful engagement between Elected Members in the Working Group, citizen researchers, partner organisations, families with lived experience, and the Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDRC). The recommendations set out represent a true shift towards poverty-aware approaches and will look to guide action across all service areas to improve outcomes for children and families living in poverty in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

As we are all acutely aware, child poverty is one of the most pressing challenges facing communities in Wales, with approximately 31 per cent of children living in relative income poverty after housing costs. This is a reality that affects communities like ours every day, and the Group's report provides a strong foundation to strengthen the Council's response and push back against stigma.

In reviewing the recommendations, Cabinet agrees the importance of improving access to support, strengthening coordination between services, and enhancing partnership arrangements with the voluntary and community sector. Equally, we recognise the need to embed dignity and poverty awareness within frontline practice, make better use of data, promote early intervention, and support long-term prevention as key priorities. As instructed, officers will now consider how each recommendation can be effectively integrated into current strategies and service planning within the available resources.

To ensure progress is monitored, a further report will be submitted to Cabinet in due course outlining implementation and next steps. This will provide assurance that the actions agreed can progress and continue to make a tangible difference for children and families living in poverty.

Once again, Cabinet would like to reiterate our appreciation for the constructive work of the Group, and if agreeable, we would be content to circulate future updates with members as necessary.

Yours sincerely,

A Morgan

Andrew Morgan OBE

Arweinydd y Cyngor ac Aelod o'r Cabinet ar faterion Isadeiledd a Buddsoddi

Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Investment

Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol dros Ward Aberpennar

County Borough Councillor for the Mountain Ash Ward

Swyddfa'r Cabinet, 2 Llys Cadwyn, Stryd y Taf, Cabinet Office, 2 Llys Cadwyn, Taff Street, Pontypridd, CF37 4TH

Ebost/Email: Andrew.Morgan2@rctcbc.gov.uk