



SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 22 OCTOBER 2019

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES 2018/19

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND HOUSING

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Social Services Scrutiny Committee of the key messages that have been identified in the preparation of the Annual Report of the Director of Social Services for 2018/19.
- 1.2 To seek the views of the committee on the report prior to the presentation of the report to Council on the 19 November 2019.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Part 8 of the Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWBA) requires Directors of Social Services in Wales to publish an annual report about the exercise of the local authority's social services functions. The attached report has been written in a format that is compliant with the requirements of the SSWBA.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members of the Social Services Scrutiny Committee are requested to note the contents of the Annual Director's Report for 2018-19 prior to its submission to Council on 19 November 2019 for its adoption.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Statutory guidance requires the Corporate Director Social Services to present the Annual Report to Council for its adoption.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 This is the tenth Annual Director's Report for Caerphilly County Borough Council. This report is an opportunity for the Statutory Director of Social Services to provide a summary of the effectiveness of Caerphilly County Borough Council in delivering Social Services to its citizens.
- 5.2 The format and content of the report is prescribed by CIW and outlines in some detail how we addressed our priorities for 2018/19 and lists our priorities for 19/20. At the start of the report is some performance information for 2018-19 together with comparable information for 2017-

18 and 2016-17. Members should be aware that the final details of the Performance & improvement Framework for Social Services in Wales are still awaited and it's only at this point will we be able to compare our performance with other LA's in Wales.

- 5.3 I would particularly draw members attention to the reference to how the partnership agenda is becoming increasingly significant for Social Services departments in Wales. The Regional Partners Boards are increasingly becoming the "vehicles of choice" for Welsh Government in implementing policy changes and as recipients of grant funding to assist partners implement these changes. This regional work is becoming increasingly intensive, time consuming and poses challenges on how we engage with elected members prior to the implementation of new service delivery models. A report on the work of the Regional Partnership Board in Gwent and how it impacts on our work in Caerphilly is scheduled for a future Social Services Scrutiny Committee.
- 5.4 Following presentation to Council on 19 November 2019, the Annual Director's Report will be made available to Welsh Government, CIW, members of the public, partner agencies and stakeholders.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 There are no assumptions made or presumed in this report.

7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

- 7.1 This report is compliant with the requirements of Part 8 of the Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014
- 7.2 Caerphilly Social Services contributes to the wellbeing goals contained in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- 7.3 Wellbeing objective 6 of the authority's Corporate Plan 2018-23.

8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 8.1 The delivery of Social Services by Caerphilly County Borough Council contributes to all of the Well-being Goals contained within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and also supports the well-being objectives of other public bodies. The service operates in a manner that is in accordance with sustainable development principle as set out in the Act. The Annual Report evidences the emphasis on collaboration, for example, with the establishment of the Greater Gwent Regional Partnership Board and a Population Needs Assessment which will inform Area Plans. Caerphilly Social Services are also active partners in Gwent wide partnerships developing integrated approaches to supporting children and young people.
- 8.2 Service users are involved in how services will be developed and delivered in the future through surveys, contract monitoring processes, Elected Member rota visits, complaints and compliments, consultation events and feedback from Inspections. The Annual Report focusses on performance in 2017/18, but takes a longer term view as well in considering the challenges that lie ahead and how services are being developed now to meet them. The promotion and maintenance of independence is a guiding principle for the service and is reflected in the emphasis on prevention.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICQATIONS

- 9.1 There are no equalities implications to this report that have not been considered or would adversely affect any individual or group

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The 2019-20 priority areas for development set out within the Annual Director's Report are aligned with the Social Services Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and the Directorates revenue budget for 2019-20.

11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no direct personnel implications arising from this report.

12. CONSULTATIONS

- 12.1 In order to produce the Annual Director's Report a wide range of information sources are taken into account including feedback from our customers and regulators/inspectors. This feedback has been incorporated into the Annual Directors Report where relevant.

13. STATUTORY POWER

- 13.1 Part 8 of the Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014

Author: Dave Street, Corporate Director Social Services & Housing
Consultees: Social Services Senior Management Team
Councillor Carl Cuss, Cabinet Member Social Care
Councillor Lyndon Binding, Chair Social Services Scrutiny Committee
Councillor John Bevan, Vice Chair Social Services Scrutiny Committee
Corporate Management Team

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Annual Report of the Director of Social Services & Housing 2018-19