



## **SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 27TH APRIL 2021**

**SUBJECT: CARE INSPECTORATE WALES (CIW) ASSURANCE CHECK  
2021: CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL SOCIAL  
SERVICES – FEEDBACK**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR SOCIAL SERVICES & HOUSING**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the Social Services Scrutiny Committee of the outcome of the recently completed CIW Assurance Check. The purpose of this assurance check was to review how Caerphilly's Social Services Directorate continues to help and support adults and children with a focus on safety and well-being.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The attached letter from CIW summarises the findings of their assurance check which took place between the 15<sup>th</sup> March to 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021. In March 2020, Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) suspended its inspection programme in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to enable local authorities and providers to focus fully on responding to the challenging circumstances. A revised programme with local authorities recommenced in September 2020 to provide assurance about how people had been being safeguarded and well-being promoted during the pandemic.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 That Members note the content and findings of the CIW letter.

### **4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 The CIW letter provides the Council with a position statement in relation to its response to the Coronavirus pandemic.

### **5. THE REPORT**

- 5.1 In undertaking the assurance check referred to in the attached report, CIW considered:-

1. How well is the local authority discharging its statutory functions to keep people who need care and support and carers who need support, safe and promote their well-being during the pandemic?
2. What is the local authority doing to prevent the need for children to come into care; and are children returning home to their families quickly enough where safe to do so?

5.2 The Inspection took place over 5 days with CIW staff reviewing documentation supplied in advance of their visit, which included reviewing 34 files and holding 10 case tracking interviews with staff. Inspectors spoke with carers and people who were receiving or had received care and support including 6 young people who had left care, all virtually. CIW administered a survey to people who had experience of care and support, providers, third sector organisations, staff, police and healthcare professionals. Inspectors also met with representatives from police, education Health and the third sector, again all virtually.

5.3 In undertaking the assurance check CIW considered the following areas:-

- People – voice and control
- Prevention
- Partnership and Integration
- Wellbeing

And their summary of findings and priorities for improvement to each of these areas are contained within the attached letter.

#### 5.4 **Conclusion**

Overall, the assurance check presents a positive picture of current practice within Caerphilly's Social Services Directorate through the coronavirus pandemic. As would be expected in an inspection of this nature a small number of areas for improvement have been identified and officers have already started work on rectifying these points. These areas for improvement identified will also be included in the relevant Improvement Plans for the Directorate.

### 6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

6.1 No assumptions have been made in compiling this report.

### 7. **SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

7.1 This report is for information and has no decision making requests, so the Council's full Integrated Impact Assessment process does not need to be applied.

### 8. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no specific financial implications arising as a result of this report.

## **9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no specific personnel implications arising as a result of this report.

## **10. CONSULTATIONS**

10.1 There are no consultation responses that have not been included in this report.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

11.1 The Social Services & Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

Author: Dave Street, Corporate Director Social Services & Housing

Consultees: Councillor Shayne Cook, Cabinet Member Social Care  
Councillor Lyndon Binding, Chair of Social Services Scrutiny Committee  
Councillor Carmen Bezzina, Vice Chair of Social Services Scrutiny Committee  
Christina Harray, Chief Executive  
Mark S Williams, Corporate Director - Economy & Environment  
Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director - Education and Corporate Services  
Jo Williams, Assistant Director Adult Services  
Gareth Jenkins, Assistant Director Children's Services

Appendices:  
Appendix 1 Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) Assurance Check 2021: Caerphilly County Borough Council Social Services