



## **SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 22<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2022**

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND HOUSING FOR 2021/22**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF 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 my Annual Report of the Director of Social Services and Housing for 2021/22.
- 1.2 To seek the views of the Committee on my report prior to the presentation of the report to Council on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

### **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.
- 2.2 Once my report has been considered by Scrutiny it will make its way to Council and once adopted will be forwarded to Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) and made available to the public via the Councils website.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Members of the Social Services Scrutiny Committee are requested to note the contents of my Annual Director's Report for 2021/22 prior to its submission to Council on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022 for its adoption.

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

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

## **5. THE REPORT**

- 5.1. This report is an opportunity for the Statutory Director of Social Services and Housing 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 the financial year in question.
- 5.3 The early part of 2021/22 saw the Directorate continue to focus on the challenges and subsequent recovery from the Covid 19 pandemic. As the pandemic situation improved the Directorate was slowly able to go back towards its normal business, although it must be acknowledged that not all services are back at pre pandemic levels.
- 5.4 The significance of partnership working continues to grow across Health & Social Care. The Gwent Regional Partnership Board (RPB) continues to grow in significance, both in implementing Welsh Government policy and in terms of the grants provided to assist with capacity and new models of care. Scrutiny Committee continues to receive regular reports on the work of the RPB and its associated sub groups
- 5.5 As is referenced in the main body of my Director's report the staffing challenges faced by the Directorate are becoming significant, particularly in relation to care staff employed by both the authority and our independent sector partners. Additionally, vacancies amongst social workers and occupational therapists are also an issue which is impacting directly on service delivery.
- 5.6 The report lays out how we addressed our key priorities for 2021/22 and what our priorities are for 2022/23.
- 5.7 Once again I would like to put on record my gratitude to all of the staff in the County Borough who have played a part in delivering Social Services, whether they be employees of the Council or staff employed by our Independent or third sector partners.

## **5.8 Conclusion**

Following presentation to Council on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022, my 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. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 This report has no decision-making requests and an integrated impact assessment does not apply.

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The priority areas for development set out within my Annual Director's Report are aligned with the Social Services Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and the Directorates revenue budget. Much of the Directorate's response to the pandemic was enhanced by grant funding from Welsh Government. As the Directorate transitions from this grant funding, it will inevitably increase pressure on our revenue budget.
- 8.2 Likewise one of the consequences of the pandemic response is likely to be a continued increase in demand for social services across adults and children's services. Once again, this will increase pressure on our core revenue budget.

## **9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **10. CONSULTATIONS**

- 10.1 In order to produce my 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 my report where relevant.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

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

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Consultees: Cllr Donna Cushing, Chair Social Services Scrutiny Committee  
Cllr Marina Chacon-Dawson, Vice Chair Social Services Scrutiny Committee  
Councillor Elaine Forehead, Cabinet Member for Social Care  
Christina Harray, Chief Executive  
Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director of Education and Corporate Services  
Mark S. Williams, Corporate Director for Economy and Environment  
Jo Williams, Assistant Director Adult Services  
Gareth Jenkins, Assistant Director Children's Services

Appendices:  
Appendix 1 Annual Report of the Director of Social Services & Housing 2021/2022