

# Social Services Directorate Performance Assessment



2022-23 Year end update

Directors Self-assessment



Self-assessment actions



Priorities



Performance



Caerphilly Cares



Customer Intelligence



Resources



Risk Register



Well-being Objective





## Directors Self-assessment - 2022/23 year end update:

### General Summary:

Overall performance across the Directorate has been strong despite sufficient pressures emerging from the NHS in terms of hospital discharge as well as pressures in children's services relating to complexity of needs and non availability of services. The workload relating the Regional Partnership Board continues to increase as does the influence of the board on day to day issues.

Quarter 4 saw an increase in referrals/assessments/reviews in adult services. This reflected the fact that all of the adult services social work teams are now fully staffed.

A number of CLA has remained fairly static all year, likewise a number of children on the CPR has also remained static, although the overall number on the register is 56 more than it was this time last year. These figures however do not illustrate the increase in complexity and costs of caring for these children.

### **What went well and why?**

All service priorities met. Particularly pleased with the establishment of a second children's home as well as putting arrangements in place for a third and fourth property.

Positive feedback/compliments out numbered complaints.

The Social Services underspend of £431,596 in 2022/23 was largely attributable to short term funding streams and temporary reductions in service provision due to staffing shortages across the social care sector. However, these short term savings masked an underlying increase in demand for

### **What didn't go well and why?**

Difficulties in delivering packages of home care during the winter caused an increase in the number of complaints. Likewise the day service issues also led to a significant number of complaints/representations.

Sickness absence remains a concern albeit it has been consistent throughout the year (between 6.47% and 7.2%). As in previous years short-term sickness is at reasonable levels however major issues remain in terms of long term absence.

Recruitment and retention issues continue to be significant with an increasing number of examples of CCBC "lagging behind" neighbouring local authorities in terms of salaries.

### **What impact have we made and how do we know what difference have we made?**

CLA and CPA numbers have remained static evidencing preventative measures/services are effective.

Cost of living response has made a significant difference to some of the most vulnerable citizens.

### **What have we learned?**

Demand for service, post covid, continues to increase. NHS pressures are now having a direct impact both as a result of the Government's prioritisation of hospital discharge and in terms of the needs of people who have been waiting for NHS treatment.

Future budget settlements will be very challenging given increases in demand particularly in children's services.

### **What actions do we intend to take in the next period to ensure that we are meeting our performance requirements?**

Review of Caerphilly Cares. Clarity on shape of the service moving forward and preparation for cost of living support for the winter 2023.

Finalisation of day services proposals.

# Directors Self Assessment - Actions



| Actions Carried over from the previous Self-Assessment (6 month update 2022/23)  | By whom    | By when   | Update   |
|--|------------|-----------|--|
| To ensure we sustain our current levels of service whilst the challenges from the epidemic continue  | DS /JW /GJ | Completed | Social Services continued to operate throughout the pandemic and recovery planning was not significant for service areas.  |
| Undertake costing and payment work to ensure independent sector providers are able to pay real living wage to their carers.  | DS/JW      | Completed | Welsh Government have passported the funding so this has been completed.   |
| Continue to work to recruit and retain staff in key areas both in Adult and Children's Services  | GJ/JW      | ongoing   | Recruitment challenges are ongoing. Advertising and the use of social media has improved. Key posts are continually advertised but applications are low or zero. This needs to link with the Corporate Review of pay structures. |
| Participate in Regional Partnership Board Self Assessment  | DS         | Completed | This has been completed by the Regional Partnership Support Team following consultation across the region.   |
| Continue to ensure that the number of children on the Child Protection Register and the number of children Looked After remain stable as broader economic hardships bite | GJ         | ongoing   | Children Looked After rates have been stable for 18 months. Numbers on the Child Protection Register rose in response to the Public Law Review but have now stabilised.  |
| To examine and where possible reduce sickness absence  | DS /JW /GJ | ongoing   | Short term absences are very well managed in line with HR policies. However, there are a number of long term absences where diagnoses and prognoses are poor.  |
| To look to reduce the number of people waiting for domiciliary care both in hospital and the community   | JW         | ongoing   | The number of hours that are unable to be provided/comisioned has reduced significantly and for the last quarter has been circa 300 hours/week   |

| Actions going forward (Include any actions that may come from CMT and the CPA)  | By whom  | By when   | Update   |
|---|----------|-----------|--|
| Participate in the Corporate review of pay structures to address the chronic / acute recruitment pressures across the | DS/JW/GJ | Tbc       | work not commenced corporately   |
| Equip staff with necessary IT kit to ensure they can work in an agile way in line with Corporate policy.              | DS/JW/GJ | completed | All staff now have appropriate IT kit in order to work in an agile way - across offices and at home. |
|   |          |           |  |

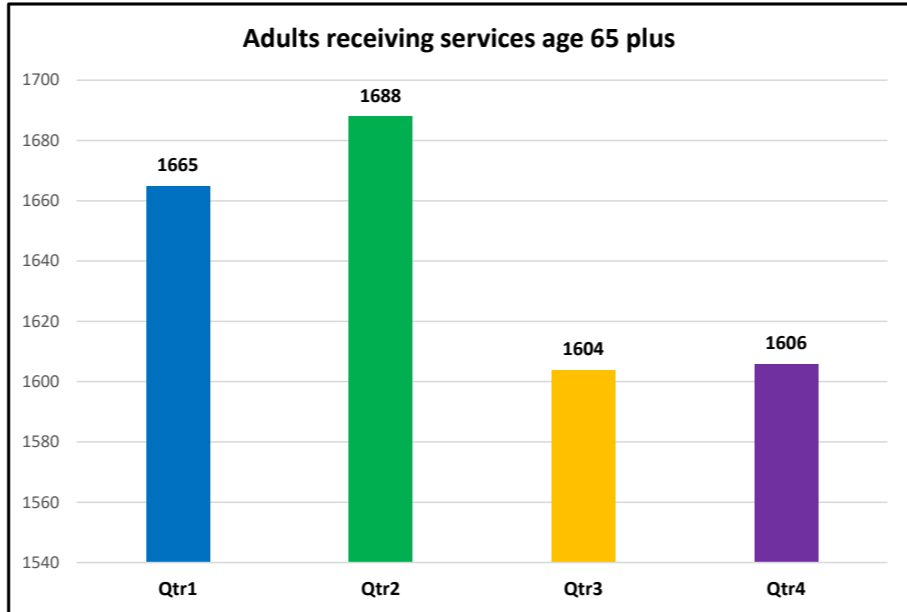
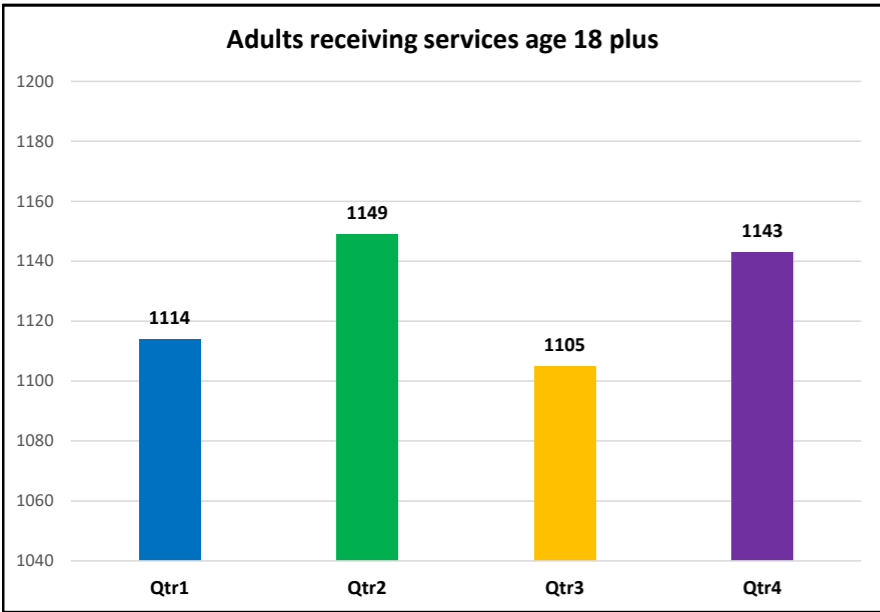
| Feedback / Recognition / Any feedback from CMT | By whom | By When | Update |
|--|---------|---------|--------|
|  |         |         |        |
|  |         |         |        |



| Standard          | Service Priorities 2022-23   | RAG | Completion Date | Progress - Achievements - Impacts  |
|-------------------|--|-----|-----------------|--|
|                   | Medium term financial planning   | ●   | Mar-23          | Significant budgetary pressures are forecast from April 2023 onwards so efficiencies and areas for more widescale savings need to be identified during the remainder of 22/23 financial year   |
| <b>Standard 1</b> | Using Transformation Grant funding, alongside ABHB to embed 'Compassionate Communities' in the North of the Borough.   | ●   | 2021-23         | Completed and the Community Connectors have subsequently transferred to Caerphilly Cares   |
| <b>Standard 1</b> | Work with colleagues in Health to embed care navigations training & principals   | ●   | 2018-23         | Links to Transformation Grant Funding in respect of compassionate communities so will continue for the duration of that funding stream.  |
| <b>Standard 1</b> | Implementation of a single point of contact for GP and other professional referrals to Primary Care Mental Health Services   | ●   | 2021-23         | Achieved. Single point of contact through the SPACE Well-being Panel is now well established and functioning so this action is completed. However, it is important to note that it is reliant on Transformation funding so would be at risk if this ended and demand has exceeded capacity so additional resourcing would be required.                                     |
| <b>Standard 2</b> | Continue to identify & support carers, enabling them to continue in their role utilising the intermediate care fund to maximise opportunities for service development. | ●   | 2021-23         | Links to RIF grant so will continue for the duration of that funding stream. Potential increase in demand due to impact of reduced service levels for carers during the pandemic.  |
| <b>Standard 2</b> | Expansion of 'Home First' to facilitate timely discharges from hospital  | ●   | 2021-23         | Achieved. Home First is working well across both District General hospitals along with the Grange University Hospital. Winter pressures money has been used to expand service to Prince Charles Hospital to reduce number of people being repatriated to YYF, positive impact noted by the health board. Funding will continue through the Regional Integration Fund (RIF) |
| <b>Standard 2</b> | Establish a second Children's Home for Caerphilly children and young people  | ●   | 2021-23         | Achieved. Second and third homes are fully operational. Further expansion plans have been approved by CMT and Cabinet in response to the increasing placement pressures and the Welsh Government policy drive to eliminate profit from children's care. These plans can be reflected in the revised DPA from 2023/24.  |
| <b>Standard 3</b> | Respond to the WAO Review of Corporate Safeguarding  | ●   | 2021-23         | Achieved. WAO Action Plan signed off as completed by the Corporate Safeguarding Board in September 2021. New Forward Work Programme has been in place since April 2022 and activity data is being reported to CMT and Cabinet.   |
| <b>Standard 4</b> | Integrated Well-being Networks - Work with health to embed IWN's within communities across the borough   | ●   | 2021-23         | Achieved. Significant community engagements events held, including session with elected members on healthier Gwent. Subject to review by IPC initial workshop held.  |
| <b>Standard 5</b> | Monitor recruitment difficulties across the Social Care sector.  | ●   | 2021-23         | Ongoing monitoring through weekly Divisional Management Team and periodic reporting to Senior Management Team. Wider recruitment issues are now being reported across the Social Care sector. Links to the Corporate work planned to look at salary levels across the Council.   |
| <b>Standard 6</b> | Develop bespoke supported accommodation for young people to reduce the use of B&B accommodation  | ●   | 2021-23         | Completed. Private developer has established 2 x 4 bedded houses for the sole use of Care Leavers and UASC's identified through Children's Services.   |
| <b>Standard 6</b> | Submit an ICF Capital bid to develop a third residential Children's Home   | ●   | 2021-23         | Completed. Funding has been awarded. Suitable premises yet to be identified.   |

| Key:  | Status   | RAG Key |   |
|-------|--|---------|---|
| Black | Not yet started or too early to report any progress (achievements/changes) | ●       | 0 |
| Red   | Started but not progressing well   | ●       | 1 |
| Amber | Started with reasonable progress achieved                                  | ●       | 2 |
| Green | Going well with good progress  | ●       | 3 |

# Performance - Adults



### What the performance telling us? ADULTS: Oct 22 - March 23

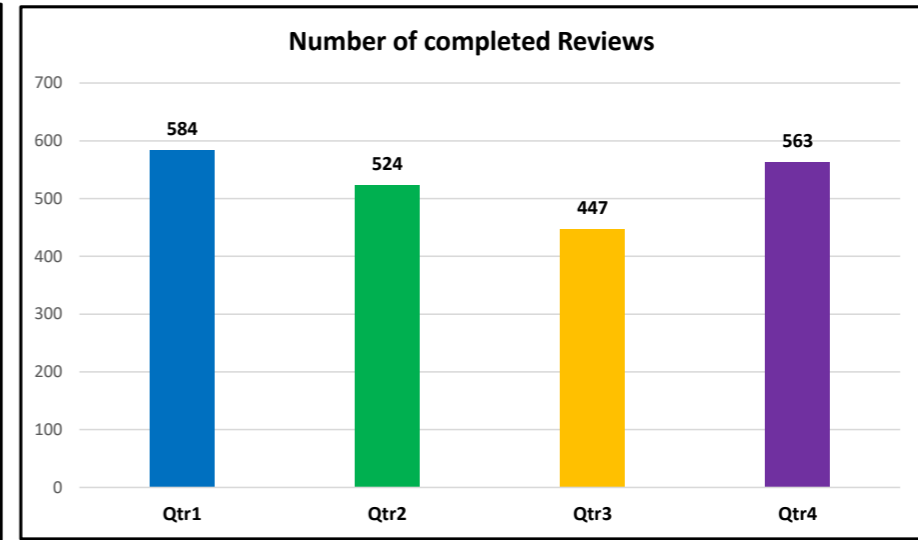
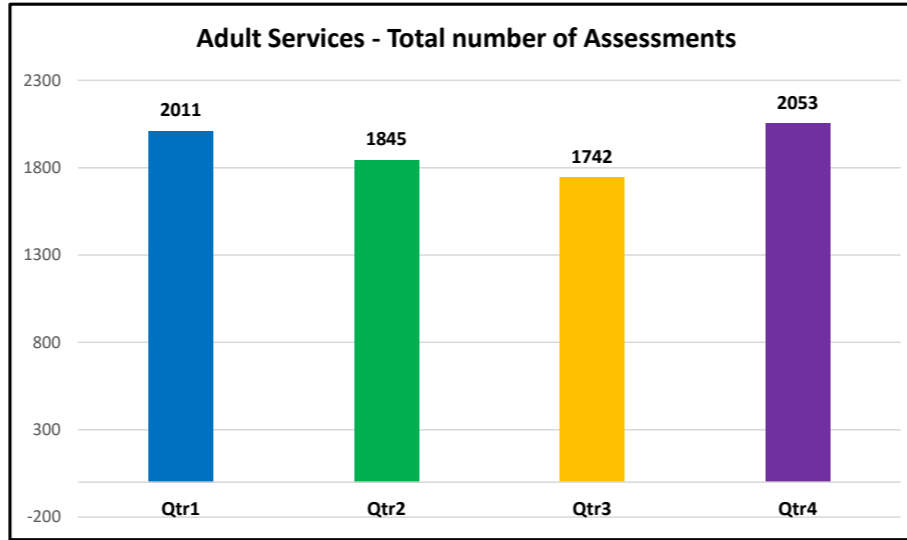
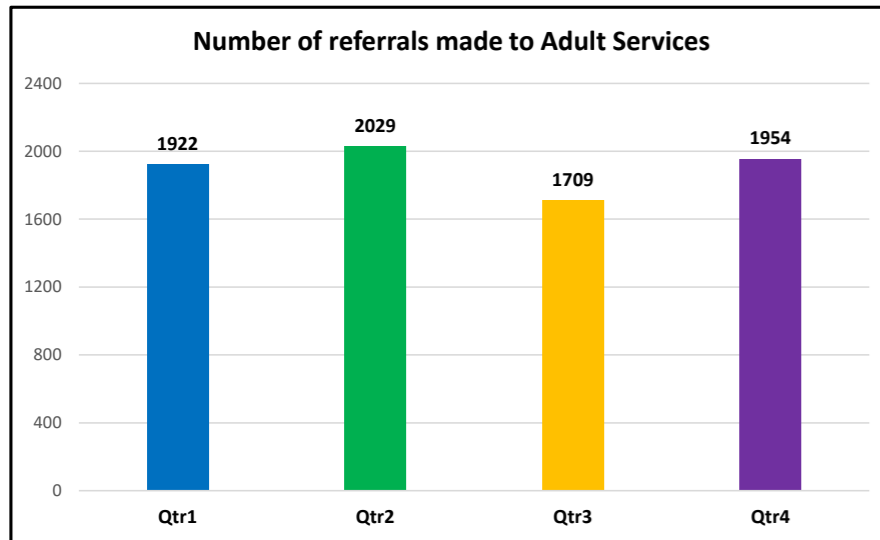
There was a slight increase in qtr4 compared to qtr3, in the number of people aged 18 plus in receipt of Services.

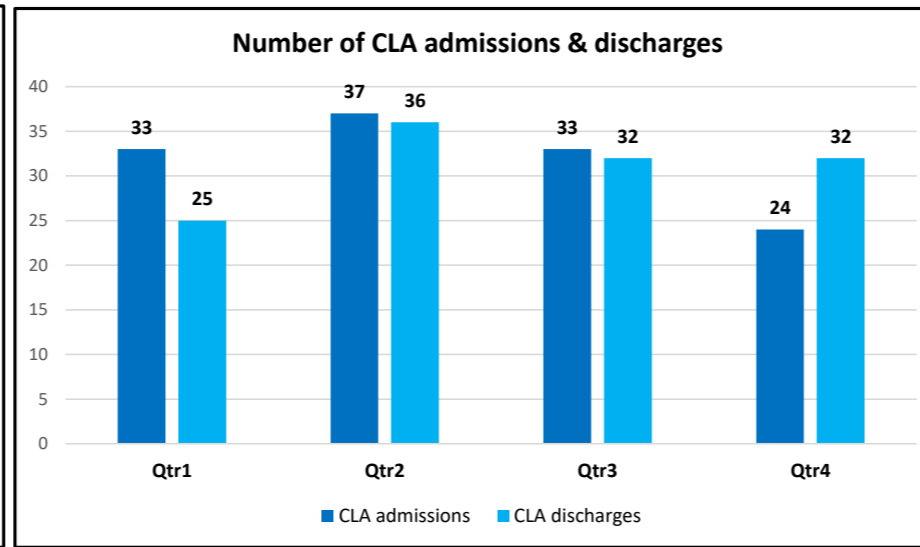
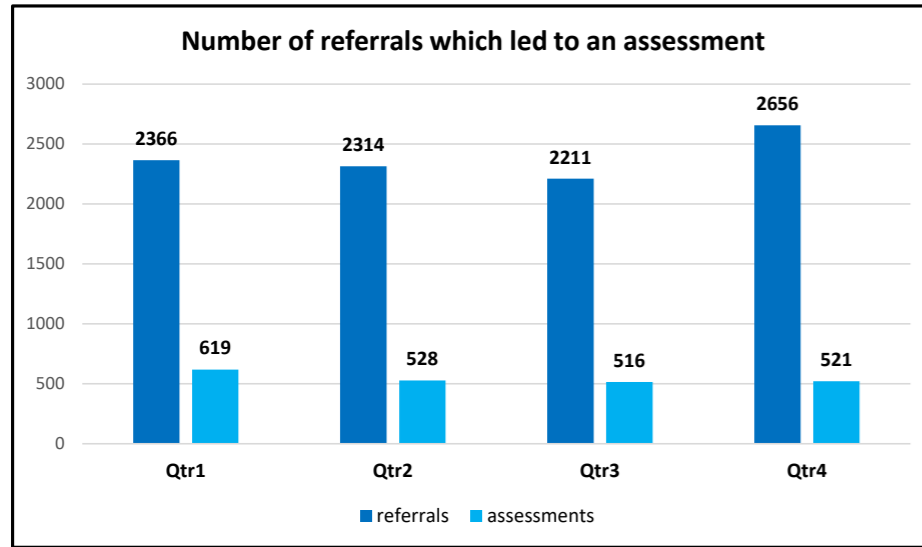
The number of people aged 65 plus receiving services remains static in qtr4 compared with qtr3 data.

The number of Referrals made to Adult Services has increased in qtr4 by 14% compared to qtr3.

There was an overall increase in the number of assessments completed within Adult Services, as all the social worker teams are fully staffed.

An increase in the number of reviews completed, this could be attributed to the fact that the Teams now have dedicated reviewing officers.





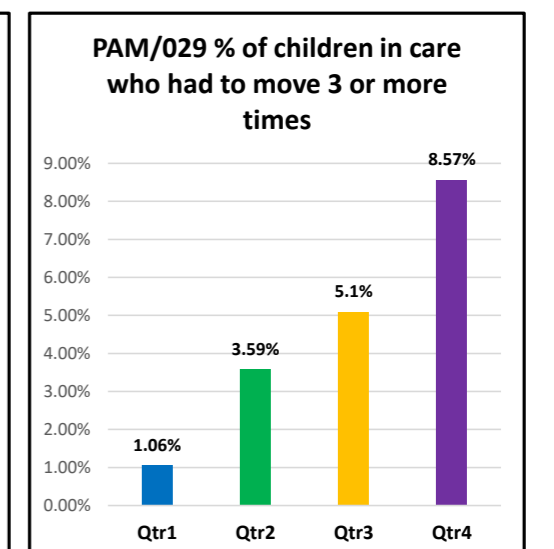
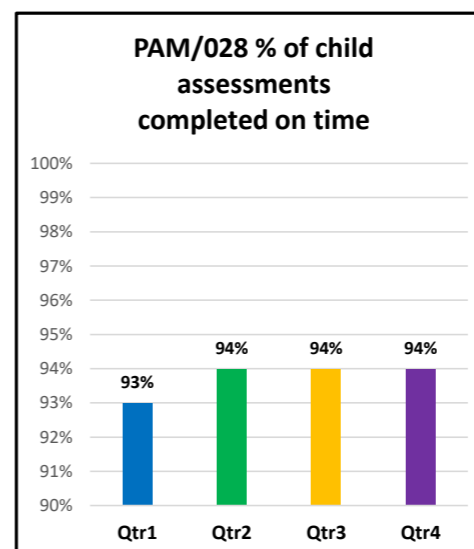
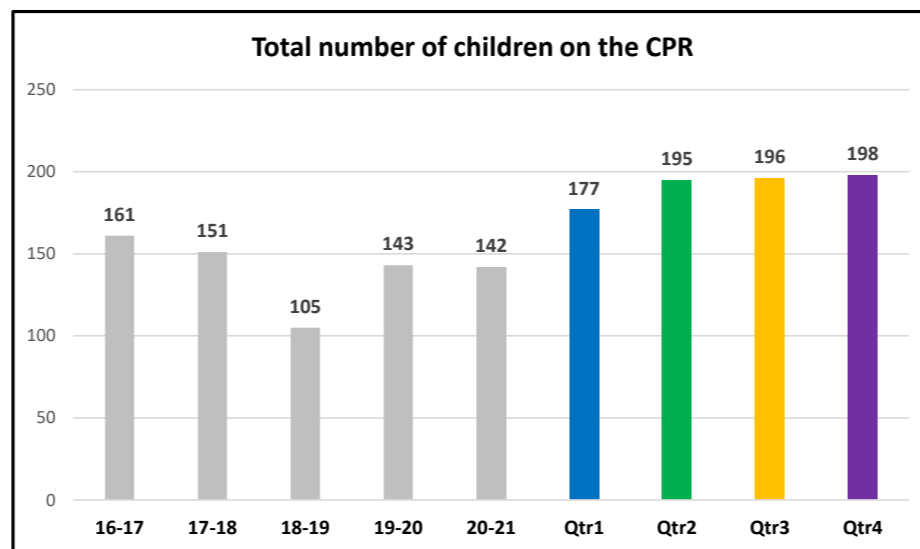
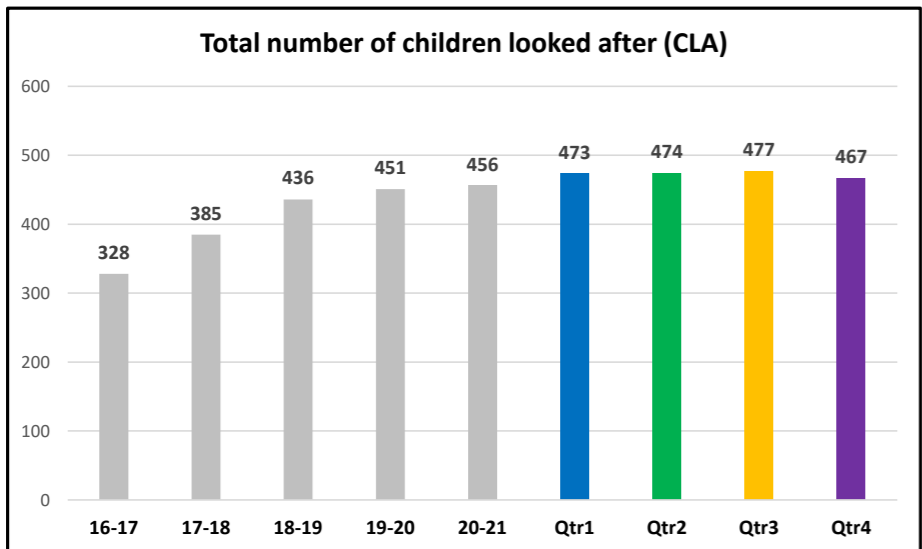
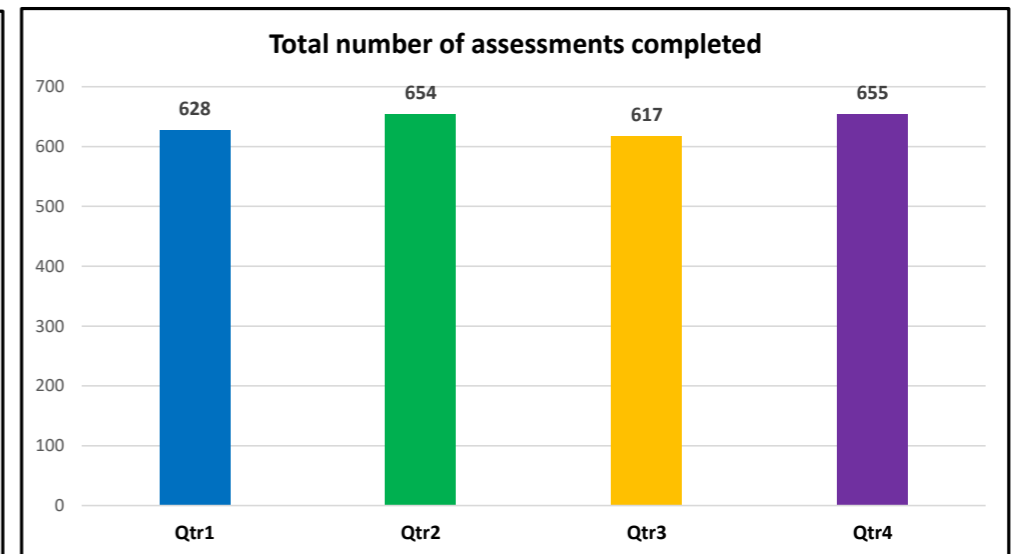
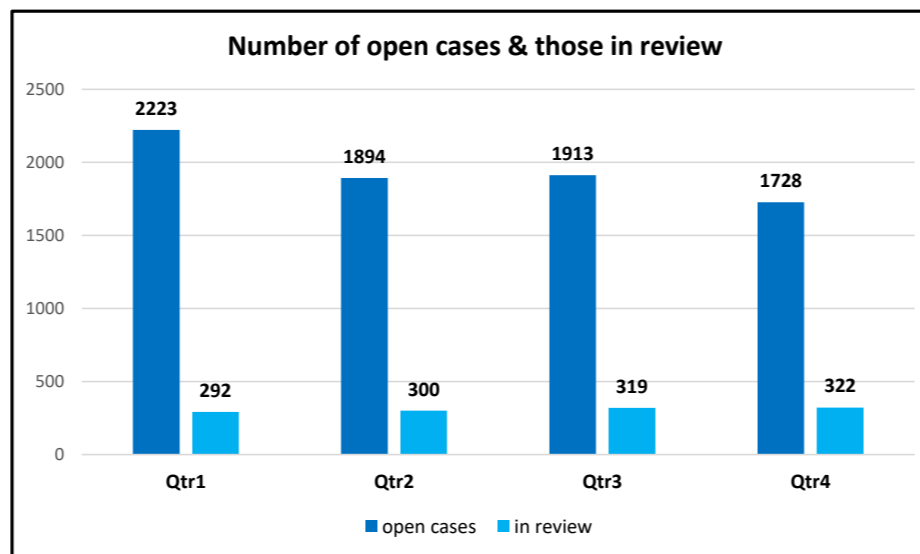
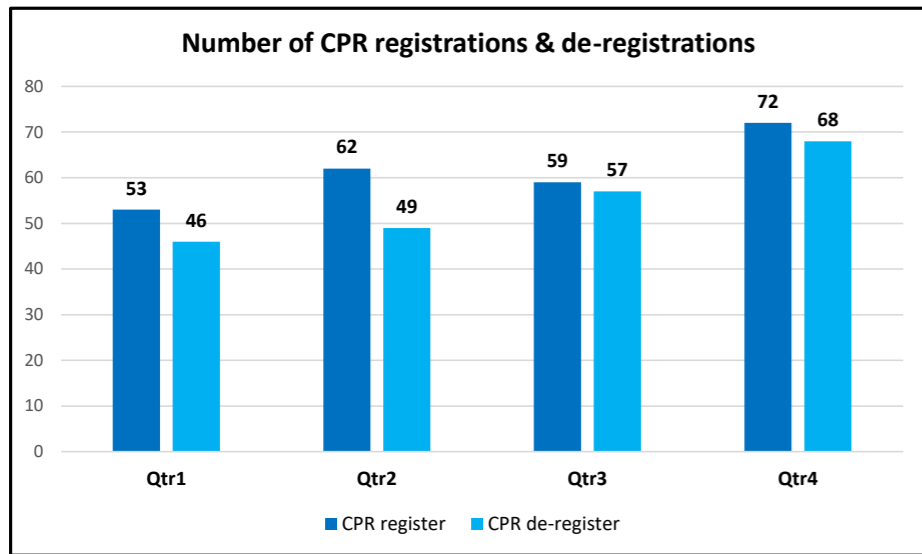
### What the performance telling us? CHILDREN'S: Oct 22 - March 23

We have amended the figures for number of open cases for the year to now include children with disability team. The figures shown reflect a total of all CS Teams -hence the increase from the figures previously provided. CWDT figures were already included in the In Review figures.

The overall number of open cases has decreased in the Year by almost 500 children, with a slight increase only in the Number of In Review cases.

There has been a slight decrease in the number of children looked after data over the year. Child protection figures have remained quite consistent over the latest 3 Quarters though the overall number on the Register is 56 more than it was this time last year.

Number of Assessments completed in the teams remains fairly consistent as does the completion timescale at around 94%.



|      |     |            |
|------|-----|------------|
| Qtr3 | 94% | 582 of 617 |
| Qtr4 | 94% | 614 of 655 |

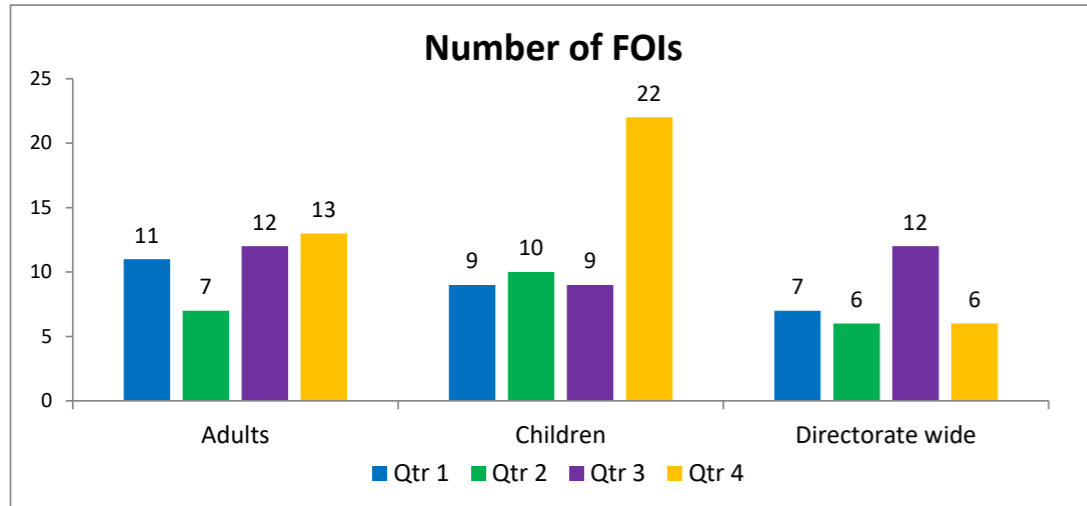
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|------|-------|--------------------|
| Qtr3 | 5.1%  | 24 of 475 children |
| Qtr4 | 8.57% | 40 of 467 children |



•Caerphilly Cares in partnership with GAVO collaborates and supports a wide range of community and voluntary organisations, recognising the importance they play in building community resilience:

- Volunteering (e.g. Buddy Scheme, Corporate Volunteering Scheme)
- Referrals In & Out (e.g. CAB)
- Financial support (e.g. Volunteering Strategic Grant)
- Supporting Foodbanks/FareShare/Community Pantries/Food Network
- Community Organisation/Group Support

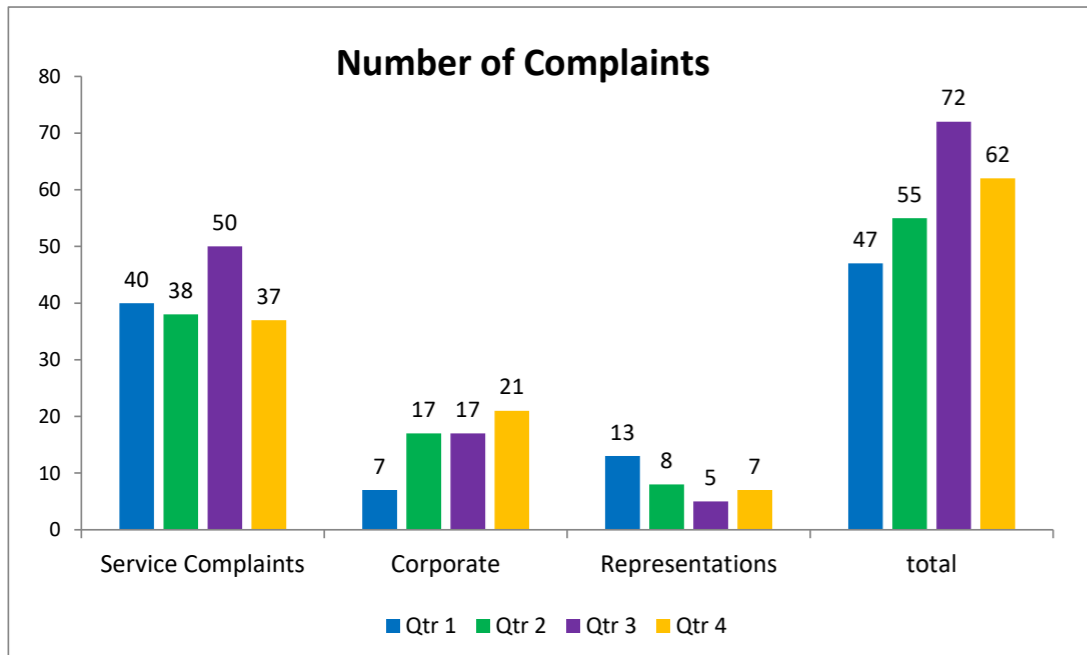
- Over 5,000 calls taken from residents 2,00 emails asking for help
- 33 authorised Welcoming Spaces Projects across 49 venues totalling £144,000 of investment
- Supported 46 community organisations & groups to obtain funding worth over £250,000
- Over 300 individuals supported on a 1-2-1 basis & 78 helped to access local community provision
- 800 food parcels arranged
- 800 successful applications for discretionary housing payments
- Energy advice given to over 250 tenants
- 350 referrals to CAB for debt and money advice
- Over 1,000 residents supported to apply for the WG Winter Fuel Payment
- £3.2m additional income generated for residents during 21/22 financial year
- Roll-out of support to assist Catering, Education, Council Tax & Benefits in teams taking calls and referrals



**What is our customer intelligence telling us?**

A total of **33 FOIs for qtr3** have been actioned by the Social Services Directorate.  
**Of the 33 FOI's:** information provided (18), refusals (2), partial information provided (6), nil response (1), information not held (3), redirected (3)  
 Of the 2 responses that were refused, for the following reasons:  
 Return for clarification of request (1)  
 Fees refusal (1)

A total of **41 FOIs for qtr4** have been actioned by the Social Services Directorate.  
**Of the 41 FOI's:** information provided (29), partial information provided (4), nil response (2), information not held (2), redirected (3), request open (1)



**What are the complaints telling us?**

At the end of **quarter 3**, we received **50 complaints and representations**. Of the 50 complaints received, 10 related to Adult Services complaints, 23 related to Children's Services complaints and 17 related to Corporate complaints

**Of the 23 Children's Services complaints**  
 22 were children's complaints  
 1 were representations

**Of the 10 Adult Services complaints**  
 7 were adults complaints  
 3 were representations

**Of the 17 Corporate complaints**  
 16 were complaints  
 1 were representations

At the end of **quarter 4**, we received **37 complaints and representations**. Of the 37 complaints received, 3 related to Adult Services complaints, 13 related to Children's Services complaints and 21 related to Corporate complaints

**Of the 13 Children's Services complaints**  
 13 were children's complaints  
 0 were representations

**Of the 3 Adult Services complaints**  
 3 were adults complaints  
 0 were representations

**Of the 21 Corporate complaints**  
 14 were complaints  
 7 were representations

**Themes for Children's Services Complaints include:** requesting change of social worker, unhappy with level of contact, unhappy with assessments, not getting the support asked for, financial decisions being made without consent, not listening to safeguarding concerns for children, not being able to contact social worker, withholding information.

**Themes for Adult Services Complaints include:** Reduction of day services, reduction in care packages, unhappy with day services consultation, delay with appointing care package, carers not arriving/late calls, not being able to choose nusing home of choice, requests for additional support, unhappy with Direct Payment decisions.

**Positive Feedback - 36 individual messages received - Children's Services:**

- \* Email from Children's guardian to say the Social Worker has gone above and beyond of what is expected to ensure that the children have been appropriately supported and safeguarded despite the challenges encountered.
- \* Text from a young person to a worker ""Aww thank you so much! you have honestly been the most consistent person in my life, you've helped me with so much I will forever appreciate you"

**Positive Feedback - 81 individual messages received - Adults Services:**

- \* Feedback from family for Intergrated services team - praised the way that team works and how effective communication is and can't thanks them enough for the reassurance this has given him and the family around discharge from hospital.
- \* Feedback for social worker in the South Older persons team "Worked really hard to get us the support we needed for Mum. He's also been fantastic at keeping in touch and keeping me updated with all the discussions going on. It's been very reassuring to have such great support".



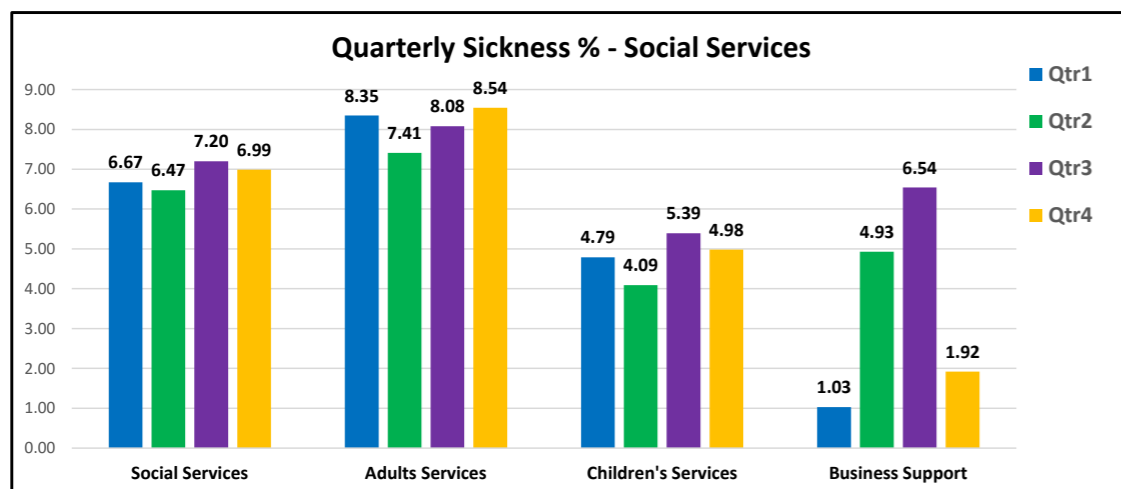
## Resources



### What is our workforce information telling us?

Overall for the Directorate, sickness absence remains a concern albeit it has been consistent throughout the year (between 6.47% and 7.2%).

The total number of leavers has remained static throughout the year, while the number of new starters has steadily increased throughout the year, this remains a priority for the Directorate to address going forward in the next couple of months.



| Monthly Breakdown         | Oct        |           |           | Nov        |           |           | Dec        |           |           |
|---------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|
|                           | Short Term | Long Term | Overall % | Short Term | Long Term | Overall % | Short Term | Long Term | Overall % |
| % Sickness Absence        |            |           |           |            |           |           |            |           |           |
| Adults Services           | 3.46       | 3.95      | 7.41      | 2.38       | 2.41      | 4.79      | 3.79       | 5.26      | 9.05      |
| Business Support          | 15.48      | 0.00      | 15.48     | 4.55       | 0.00      | 4.55      | 0.00       | 0.00      | 0.00      |
| Children's Services       | 2.62       | 3.07      | 5.69      | 3.23       | 4.37      | 7.60      | 2.75       | 2.60      | 5.35      |
| Social Services & Housing | 2.89       | 4.04      | 6.93      | 2.76       | 4.22      | 6.98      | 3.11       | 4.44      | 7.55      |

| Monthly Breakdown         | Jan        |           |           | Feb        |           |           | Mar        |           |           |
|---------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|
|                           | Short Term | Long Term | Overall % | Short Term | Long Term | Overall % | Short Term | Long Term | Overall % |
| % Sickness Absence        |            |           |           |            |           |           |            |           |           |
| Adults Services           | 3.21       | 5.22      | 8.43      | 3.57       | 5.00      | 8.57      | 3.09       | 5.53      | 8.62      |
| Business Support          | 3.41       | 0         | 3.41      | 0.00       | 0.00      | 0.00      | 2.17       | 0         | 2.17      |
| Children's Services       | 2.09       | 3.24      | 5.32      | 2.07       | 2.67      | 4.74      | 1.74       | 3.14      | 4.88      |
| Social Services & Housing | 2.58       | 4.38      | 6.95      | 2.74       | 4.17      | 6.92      | 2.51       | 4.58      | 7.08      |

| Social Services Workforce Information |           |           |           |           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                                       | Qtr1      | Qtr2      | Qtr3      | Qtr4      |
| Voluntary Leavers                     | 34        | 41        | 37        | 41        |
| Other Leavers                         | 9         | 8         | 8         | 2         |
| <b>Total Leavers</b>                  | <b>43</b> | <b>49</b> | <b>45</b> | <b>43</b> |
| New Starters                          | 43        | 47        | 57        | 53        |
| 55 and over                           | 410       | 409       | 413       | 417       |
| Headcount                             | 1420      | 1424      | 1432      | 1439      |
| % of headcount                        | 28.87%    | 28.72%    | 28.84%    | 28.97%    |
| Agency staff                          | 11        | 15        | 15        | 18        |

**Voluntary Reasons:** Flexible retirement, retirement, settlement agreement, voluntary resignation & severance, Early retirement, Personal reasons, Transfer, VER release of Pension Benefits, Early retirement by mutual consent on grounds of business.


**Other Reasons:** Death in service, Dismissal, Dismissal on ill health grounds, End of fixed term contract, End of relief employment, Gross Misconduct, Sickness Absence Management, Frustrated Contract, Compulsory Redundancy, Failed Probation.

## Budget Monitoring Report - Outturn Position 2022/23 - Period 12

| Year-end Service area        | Original Budget 2022/23 | Revised Budget 2022/23 | Outturn 2022/23     | Variance (Overspend) / Underspend |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
|                              | £'s                     | £'s                    | £'s                 | £'s                               |
| CHILDREN'S SERVICES          | £30,213,658             | £30,213,658            | £33,648,304         | (£3,434,646)                      |
| ADULT SERVICES               | £78,481,509             | £78,481,509            | £74,720,032         | £3,761,477                        |
| RESOURCING AND PERFORMANCE   | £2,314,481              | £2,314,481             | £2,209,716          | £104,765                          |
| <b>SOCIAL SERVICES TOTAL</b> | <b>£111,009,648</b>     | <b>£111,009,648</b>    | <b>£110,578,052</b> | <b>£431,596</b>                   |

### What is our resource information telling us at period 12?

The Social Services underspend of £431,596 in 2022/23 was largely attributable to short term funding streams and temporary reductions in service provision due to staffing shortages across the social care sector. However, these short term savings masked an underlying increase in demand for and complexity of residential placements for both children and older people. Despite the additional funding provided within the 2023/24 Social Services budget to address these underlying pressures, the situation will continue to require close monitoring.

| Ref   | Topic (& Service)   | Risks, Opportunities & Impacts  | Mitigating Actions (What Actions can we take to address the risks or realise the opportunity)   | Progress Update (Are the mitigating actions reducing the risk or realising the opportunity?)    | Risk Level 2022-23 Q2 | Risk Level 2022-23 Q4 | Does the risk affect the Well-being of our Communities?   | Well-being Risk Level            |
|---|---|---|---|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| <b>Dir link to Corp Risk Register CMT39</b> | Fragility of the Social Care market. The independent sector social care market across Wales is in an unprecedented position in terms of its fragility and this has been exacerbated by the impact of the Covid pandemic with Providers unable to sustain existing packages of care. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The independent sector social care market across Wales is in an unprecedented position in terms of its fragility and this has been exacerbated by the impact of the Covid pandemic with Providers unable to sustain existing packages of care.</li> <li>National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage creating additional financial strain which providers are expecting LA's to resolve.</li> <li>Little additional capacity to take on new packages of care.</li> <li>Potential financial impact on the Directorate and Authority.</li> </ul> | Fee levels are continually being kept under review and agreement for the 2022/23 financial year will be confirmed by January 2022. It is difficult to mitigate for the impact of staff leaving the sector for higher paid roles in retail and/or hospitality. Corporate Director agreed to attend future Audit and Governance meeting on this subject.                              | No change in risk level. Further concerns with regard to stability. Coronavirus Pandemic has had major consequences for care homes across the UK. Welsh Government funding has eased the position but the commitment to ongoing support is unclear.  | High                  | High                  | Yes - reducing help that can be provided for the most vulnerable in our society will affect our ability to contribute to a 'Healthier Wales' which requires peoples mental and physical well-being to be maximised. Whilst this may be a medium risk operationally from a FGA perspective this would be high as it directly affects those most in need. | High (Medium-term)               |
| <b>SS01</b>                                 | Medium Term Financial Plan  | Insufficient resources to deliver services at expected level. Budget pressures will have an impact upon service delivery.   | Work closely with the Section 151 officer to identify demographic pressures and other cost pressures for consideration within the medium term financial plan. Lobby Welsh Government via ADSS Cymru and the WLGGA for additional long term funding to address the pressures in the social care market.  | The underspend reported for 2021/22 is not expected to be repeated in 2022/23. However, every opportunity is being taken to access any grant funding and to lobby Welsh Government for additional long term funding to stabilise the social care market.   | High                  | High                  | Yes, as it may have implications now for interventions that will prevent people from needing more support in the future.  | High (Short to Medium term)      |
| <b>SS02</b>                                 | Demographic Pressures   | Increasing complexity of cases resulting in increased packages of care and support and increased cost pressures. Increasing demand across both Adults and Children's Services.  | Implementation of SS&WB Act principle of supporting people to support themselves by maximising the use of early intervention and preventative services. All packages of care regularly reviewed. Covid has had a significant impact on the way services have had to be delivered and the overall position is volatile with services being exposed to significant demand variations. | Pressures in Adults & Children's are currently manageable, However, careful attention is being paid to pressures in Adult Services, whilst the budget is currently fully committed with further pressures anticipated through the Winter.  | Medium                | Medium                | Yes - the Act aims to improve the wellbeing of people who need support and carers.  | High (Short, medium & long term) |
| <b>SS03</b>                                 | WCCIS   | Ongoing system upgrades result in significant downtime and system failures.   | Additional resource has been committed within the service to develop the necessary SQL reporting in order to provide Wales Data Unit with the annual performance data.  | Performance reporting from the system has improved significantly since the creation of the dedicated post. Monthly, quarterly and annual reporting processes are now well established across both Service areas.   | Medium                | Medium                | No - this is expected to be a short term risk.  | Medium (Short-term)              |
| <b>SS05</b>                                 | Social Care recruitment   | Difficulties in recruiting Qualified Social Workers and Support Workers across all areas of the Service. High levels of vacancies in certain teams. Salary levels are no longer competitive.  | Market Supplement continues to be paid in 7 Children's Services Teams and for Approved Mental Health Practitioners but other Local Authorities are now exceeding this rate of pay. Secondment scheme for unqualified staff to complete the Social Work Degree is successful.  | The Supplement has been reviewed and will now remain in place for those specific teams. However, there are increasing recruitment pressures being experienced across the service namely, domiciliary care, residential care, cooks, 16 Plus and Fostering.   | Medium                | Medium                | Yes   | Medium (Short-term)              |
| <b>SS06</b>                                 | Foster Carers recruitment   | Difficulties in recruiting Foster Carers based on feedback that CCBC's fee levels were poor in comparison to competitors.   | Improved remuneration package for foster carers approved by Cabinet in June 2018. Ongoing radio campaign also supported. Significant increase in numbers of enquiries and numbers of assessments being undertaken has now been reported over successive years. Whilst recruitment of carers will remain a priority it is no longer considered to be a risk.                         | Recruitment levels remain steady. The establishment of Foster Wales means that we are now working on both regional and national recruitment campaigns.   | Low                   | remove                | Yes   | Low (Medium-term)                |
| <b>SS07</b>                                 | WG Children Looked After (CLA) reduction expectations   | First Minister's Manifesto Pledge to reduce the numbers of children in care in Wales. Each LA invited to set reduction expectations in the three years from 2019 to March 2022.   | Systematic reviews of all children placed at home with parents and all Kinship Care placements to identify cases where Care Orders can be revoked. Fully utilise ICF grant funding to develop support services for children on the 'edge of care'.  | Children looked after numbers were predicted to continue to rise but the number actually remained stable. Reporting to Welsh Government has now ended so this could be removed. NB: the actual number of CLA would now be reducing but the increased pressure through the National Transfer Scheme for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children means numbers are remaining steady. | Medium                | remove                | Yes   | Medium                           |

## Progress towards our Well-being Objective

### Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being



Please state what progress has been made against Wellbeing Objective 6, which aims to *support citizens to remain independent and improve their Well-being* through achieving the following outcomes:

#### **Supporting people to 'help themselves' by providing comprehensive advice and information including signposting to other services; and Having 'meaningful conversations' to help people identify 'what matters' to them to inform 'outcome focused' planning.**

Social Services have an effective Information, Advice and Assistance (IAA) Service in place that fully meets the requirements of the Social Services & Well Being (Wales) Act 2014. All staff have received 'what matters' training in line with a national programme supported by Social Care Wales and Welsh Government. A dedicated Officer has been appointed utilising ICF funding, to support the further development of DEWIS as the 'go to' site.

#### **Providing support to reduce the need for higher tier statutory interventions.**

Home First, Emergency Care at Home and Discharge to Assess Schemes are all now fully operational. WG have confirmed grant funding will continue and both Programmes have structured work plans and commissioned services in place. Supporting People continue to monitor and provide services to those individuals who require support whilst in hospital. The Intensive Support Team (IST) provides the edge of care support for Children's Services and utilising grant funding, has been expanded to include a Child Psychologist, Education Worker, Health Visitor, a Family Meeting Service and additional Family Support Workers.

#### **Identifying and supporting carers.**

A significantly enhanced range of support is now available to all carers including individual support, groups and leisure and social activities. These are all publicised through a regular newsletter.

#### **Improving the recruitment of Foster carers and Shared Lives carers.**

Net increases of: 10 Shared Lives Carers, 15 Foster Carers in past 12 months. Current advertisement is being revised to include reference to the MyST Therapeutic Fostering service. Dedicated Communications Officer post has been created funded by Social Services.

#### **Continuing to identify opportunities to work collaboratively wherever appropriate.**

Welsh Government requires each of the collaborative regions to deliver statutory advocacy services for children and young people. The Gwent region is acknowledged to be leading the work in Wales. Existing collaborations include Safeguarding Board, Safeguarding Hubs, Adoption, Fostering, Shared Lives and Emergency Duty Team.