



EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 28TH NOVEMBER 2023

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL
SERVICES AND HOUSING FOR 2022/23**

REPORT BY: DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Education and 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 and Housing for 2022/23.

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 Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee are requested to note the contents of my Annual Director's Report for 2022/23 prior to its submission to Council on the 29th November 2023 for its publication.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Statutory guidance requires the Corporate Director of 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 me as 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 the financial year in question.
- 5.3 The report lays out how we addressed our key priorities for 2022/23 and what our priorities are for 2023/24.
- 5.4 A key challenge faced during the year has been our ability to recruit and retain staff in a variety of care related roles. This is not an issue solely for Caerphilly CBC but a problem nationally. We have worked hard with colleagues from within the Council, the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and independent sector partners to share ideas and resources to overcome these challenges.
- 5.5 The continued fallout from the Covid 19 pandemic coupled with the cost of living crisis has placed significant financial pressures on the independent care sector. Whilst we have taken steps to offset some of these challenges, we continue to make representations to Welsh Government around an all Wales solution to market stability.
- 5.6 Whilst the pandemic was clearly challenging for everyone involved in social care services we have also taken some of the learning from the way we delivered services during that period to ensure services are sustainable moving forward and meet the long term needs of some of our service users. Our reconfiguration of our day services is an example of this and will mean that these services will be fit for purpose for years to come.
- 5.7 Once again I would like to put on record my gratitude to all 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 29th November 2023, my Annual Director's Report will be made available to Welsh Government, CIW, members of the public via the Council's website, 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 Over the past 2 years the Directorate has received significant amounts of grant funding which has enabled us to respond to and recover from the Covid 19 pandemic. Whilst some grant funding was received in 2022/23 it is clear that this will start to reduce of the next few years.

8.2 The Directorate underspent by £432,000 against its allocated budget, despite pressures in areas such as:-

- Independent sector residential care for children
- Nursing care for older people
- Supported living for people with learning disabilities

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 Teresa Parry, Chair of Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee
Cllr Brenda Miles, Vice Chair of Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee
Cllr 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, Head of Adult Services
Gareth Jenkins, Head of Children's Services

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Annual Report of the Director of Social Services and Housing 2022/2023