

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Cabinet Meeting: 14 March, 2016

Joint Report of the Cabinet Member for Adult Services and the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Schools

Implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Cabinet with an overview of the changes that will be introduced by the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.
2. To provide an update on the preparatory work being undertaken locally and regionally to ensure readiness for implementing the legislation.
3. To seek approval for the delegated authority needed to ensure that:
 - changes required by the new Act are put in place promptly; and
 - the Council can respond appropriately to the risks posed by reform on the scale required as a consequence of the exceptionally complex and comprehensive statutory framework that is being introduced with limited time for preparation.

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet notes the contents of the report.
2. That Cabinet grants delegated authority to the Director of Social Services in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member(s) to ensure that the Authority is compliant with any new charging arrangements made under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 ("the Act") and to take all necessary action to comply with the Act
3. That Cabinet grants delegated authority to the Director of Social Services in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member(s) to undertake such duties and functions pursuant to the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and associated regulations as they come into force.
4. That a review of the existing officer delegations for the Social Services Directorate be undertaken in light of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and associated regulations.

Reasons for the Recommendations

1. To ensure that elected Members are kept informed about fundamental changes in the legislative and policy framework which underpins the work of Social Services.
2. To ensure that the Authority is compliant with any new charging arrangements made under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (“the Act”) and to take all necessary action to comply with the Act
3. To ensure that the appropriate delegated authority is given to the Director of Social Services in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member(s) to manage implementation effectively.
4. To ensure that a review of existing officer delegations is undertaken following implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and associated regulations.

Background

4. Public services need to remain responsive to the changing needs of the citizens they serve. The demographic, social and economic context in Wales is changing: people are living longer; demand for social care is increasing; there are economic pressures on family budgets and on those organisations which support people in need. We have not been able to put in place a sufficient range of community and preventative services to help people early enough or to stop problems arising. This means that when people finally do get care, it is more intensive and costly. Too much time, skills and resources can go into over-elaborate assessment that does not help people with the things they are concerned about or achieve the outcomes they want for themselves. The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 is designed to address these concerns. It is the most substantial piece of primary legislation enacted by the Assembly and it will have a profound impact on the provision of social care in Wales.
5. The Act is very extensive, consolidating in one place much of the legislative framework for social services in Wales. It repeals many previous laws and guidance relating to care and support and replaces them within this Act. [Appendix 1](#) lists the consequential repeals and amendments to existing primary legislation. The new law builds on the White Paper, Sustainable Social Services for Wales: A Framework for Action, which called for modernisation of the law for care and support in ways that reflected the strengths of structures, systems and policy in Wales. It is intended to transform the way social services are delivered in Wales and covers adults, children and carers. The Act brings in new duties for local authorities, local health boards and other public bodies.
6. The Act provides a new statutory framework for social services in Wales which will operate in its entirety from 6 April 2016. It consists of three main elements – the Act itself, regulations made under the Act, and supporting codes of practice and statutory guidance. [Appendices 2](#) and [3](#) contain links to those which were approved by the Assembly in December 2015.
7. The Care Council for Wales web-based ‘hub’ is the most accessible site for finding the relevant materials – see www.ccwales.org.uk/the-act/ . It also has a link to the training materials commissioned by the Welsh Government for implementation the Act – the ‘Hub Prospectus’.

8. In terms of intention, the cornerstone of the Act is putting individuals and the well-being outcomes they wish to achieve at the centre of their care. This means giving them a significant voice in, and control over, how these well-being outcomes can be achieved. Local authorities are under a general duty (under section 5) to promote the well-being of people 'in need' and of carers. Well-being is defined widely in section 2. The guiding principles are about co-operation and partnership, prevention and early intervention, supporting people to maintain an appropriate level of independence and control. This co-productive approach should in turn lead to more people being supported without a need for eligibility assessments and case-managed social care support. This is seen as especially important to sustaining effective social services in an era of limited resources.
9. The key principles described in the Act can be summarised as:
 - We must support people who have care and support needs to achieve **well-being**.
 - **People** are to be put at the heart of the new system by giving them an equal say in the support they receive.
 - **Partnership** and co-operation must drive service delivery.
 - Services will promote the **Prevention** of escalating need and ensure that the right help is available at the right time

Relevant Issues and Options

10. A great deal of preparatory work has been done in this Council and in collaboration with regional partners, especially Cardiff Council. This will continue right up to April and beyond. The programme of change involves nine workstreams, set out in [Appendix 4](#). It is managed through task and finish groups, each of them led jointly by the relevant heads of service from both councils. The Director of Social Services in the Vale of Glamorgan is the regional lead director for the programme. The Welsh Government has provided a Delivering Transformation Grant (DTG), since 2014/15, to support plans by local authorities for making the transition to the new arrangements. As required by this grant, regional governance arrangements are in place to monitor and oversee progress.
11. New services are being developed. This includes moves towards providing an Information, Advice and Assistance Service, as required by the Act. It is being designed to ensure that people can get access to the right help at the right time to meet their individual situation. [Appendix 5](#) contains a draft diagram that sets out what this service will include across the region. The development of this service is still work in progress as we get a better understanding of what is required and what currently exists.
12. An important part of this **Information, Advice and Assistance Service** will be single points of access for social care services which adults, children and carers can use easily. A national resource directory is being developed and it will help people to get accurate, up-to-date information at any time, either at home using the internet or by contacting a single telephone number or email address. This resource directory will be available across Wales and its success will depend on local authorities, health boards, third sector and the independent sector uploading details of the resources they provide to assist people looking for care and support. This national information portal for Wales has been named **Dewis Cymru**. It already exists for residents in North Wales, helping people to think about their well-being needs and to find

services/resources which can assist them. Dewis Cymru can be accessed via this link www.Dewis.Cymru / www.Dewis.Wales . Work on establishing the regional content for the Vale and Cardiff is progressing well.

13. **Planning and Promoting Preventative Services** is an essential requirement within the Act. The aim is to rebalance the focus of care and support to prevention and earlier intervention – increasing help within the community to minimise the escalation of needs to a critical level. Generalised guidance on the obligations local authorities and Local Health Boards have in relation to the development of preventative services is provided in the Part 2 Code of Practice (General Functions). This new duty for local authorities is to ensure an appropriate range and level of preventative services which:
 - help prevent, delay and reduce the need for care and support;
 - promote the upbringing of children by their family;
 - minimise the effect of people’s disabilities;
 - slow down deterioration for people with established conditions;
 - help prevent abuse or neglect;
 - enable people to live as independently as possible;
 - promote re-ablement and rehabilitation; and
 - reduce the need for care or supervision orders, criminal proceedings against children, or taking children into local authority care or secure accommodation.
14. Our third sector partners are vital in assisting with provision of preventative services while other council services such as schools, housing, leisure facilities and libraries also provide well-being services. It is intended that a full list of preventative services will develop as the national resource directory becomes more widely used and updated.
15. The duty to undertake a **population needs assessment** by March 2017 will help authorities to identify the range of preventative and well-being services available. Local authorities and local health boards must:
 - jointly assess the extent to which there are people who need care and support and carers who need support in the local area;
 - identify the range and level of services required to meet those needs;
 - assess the current range and level of preventative services and whether these are sufficient, including the match with the profile of the Welsh language community;
 - for each local government electoral cycle, publish a population assessment report which is informed by engagement with a wide range of citizens, stakeholders and providers.
16. The population needs assessment will inform the future planning of services and identify any gaps in service provision. It will be carried out on a regional basis with the option to break down information to a locality level.
17. The Act requires local authorities to make significant changes to current **Assessment and Eligibility** practice, with a move away from ‘identifying what services an individual needs’ to an emphasis on what care and support they require to achieve the personal outcomes that ‘matter to them’. The aim is to streamline

assessments through a single process for children, adults and carers while recognising their different requirements.

18. The duty to assess is mandatory if the person 'may' have a need for care and/or support (sections 19, 21 and 24). Once an assessment has commenced, then there is a duty to consider whether the person's needs meet the eligibility criteria, which consider (among other things) the availability of 'non-local authority' care and support. When undertaking the assessment, the Act and the regulations require the local authority to have regard to a wide range of factors. As long as these are considered, it is for the local authority to decide how wide and how deep the assessment ranges (i.e. what is 'proportionate in the circumstances'). This means that the local authority must look at the need for: support, preventative services; information, advice or assistance; and also whether the individual works or wishes to do so; whether they want to participate in education, training or any leisure activity, etc. Assessments must consider: (a) the person's circumstances; (b) the person's personal outcomes; (c) the barriers to achieving these outcomes; (d) the risks if these outcomes are not achieved; and (e) the person's strengths and capabilities (reg 4). Copies of assessments must be offered to the person assessed (reg 6) and reviews must be undertaken when there has been a 'significant' change in circumstances (reg 7).
19. Having completed the assessment, if the authority is satisfied that the person has needs for care and/or support then it must decide if any of these needs meet the eligibility criteria: it is the need for 'support' that is the triggering issue, requiring that the authority take the assessment to the next stage. Section 32 states that, where an authority has carried out an assessment which has revealed that the person has needs for care/support, then it must decide if these needs meet the eligibility criteria and if they do, then it must meet those needs by providing assistance in a variety of ways (listed in section 34).
20. The Care and Support (Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2015 require that there must be a named person for every assessment and that she/he must have the skills, knowledge and competence to carry out the assessment and have received training in the carrying out of assessments. The Code of Practice stipulates the appropriate levels of qualification.
21. Eligibility is not about giving a right to a service; it is about access to care and support to meet personal outcomes. The individual has an eligible need for care and support if an assessment establishes that they can only overcome barriers and achieve their personal outcomes through the local authority preparing a care and support plan (or a support plan for carers) and ensuring that it is delivered.
22. The Act not only consolidates the existing three **Carers** Acts, it also removes: (1) the requirement to establish that the carer is providing or intending to provide 'a substantial amount of care on a regular basis'; and (2) the requirement that carers 'request' an assessment. The assessment obligation will be triggered by the appearance of need. The duty to assess applies regardless of the local authority's view of the level of support the carer needs or the financial resources he or she has or the financial resources of the person needing care. Specific consideration must be given to:
 - the extent to which the carer is able, and will continue to be able, to provide care, and the extent to which the carer is willing, and will continue to be willing, to do so;
 - whether the carer works or wishes to do so; and

- whether the carer is participating in or wishes to participate in education, training or any leisure activity.
23. The assessment and eligibility process is one of the most important parts of the care and support system. It should not be viewed as a gateway to care and support, rather, a critical intervention in its own right that can help individuals to understand their situation and overcome barriers to achieving their personal outcomes. Each local authority is developing a new eligibility and assessment of need process to ensure compliance with the Act. This is being done through a series of workshops involving Change Champions and small groups of other practitioners. A map of the new system is set out in [Appendix 6](#).
24. **Care and Support (section 34)** describes changes to the previous legal regime where the object of a community care/carers assessment was to determine (among other things) whether there was a need for ‘services’. The old legislation contained exhaustive lists of services that could be provided for adults in need. The 2014 Act repeals these statutes and provides an illustrative list of ‘ways in which a local authority may meet needs’ (for people in need and/or carers), namely:
- accommodation in a care home, children’s home or in premises of some other type;
 - care and support at home or in the community;
 - services, goods and facilities;
 - information and advice.
 - counselling and advocacy;
 - social work;
 - payments (including direct payments);
 - aids and adaptations;
 - occupational therapy.
25. The Act (as with the previous legislation) places a duty on local authorities to meet the eligible needs of adults. However, it strengthens the nature of this ‘right’ in relation to ‘children in need’ and for carers as it converts what was formerly a ‘power’ into a duty to have their eligible needs met. In addition, there is a duty to meet the needs of people, who (although their needs are insufficient for the purposes of the ‘eligibility criteria’) are nonetheless considered to be at risk of abuse or neglect. Separate sections address the duties in relation to adults, disabled children, carers of adults and carers of children.
26. In part because of time taken to take the legislative framework through the Assembly, the timescales for implementing such changes will be especially challenging and some will take longer to implement than others. There will be a need also for organisations to achieve, in some areas, a cultural shift which alters the interaction between practitioners and individuals needing care and support. For example, professionals will need to help people to think about ‘what sort of life I would like and what needs to change to make this happen?’.
27. IT systems are being updated to reflect the new requirements and training is planned for all staff most affected by the changes, to be delivered during March. This work will also take account of the new and revised **performance measurement** requirements. Section 8 requires the Welsh Ministers to issue a ‘statement of outcomes’. This is intended to be a strategic planning tool that will be used to assess

whether the lives of people 'in need' in Wales are being materially improved by the new legislative framework. The code of practice in relation to measuring social services performance sets out six quality standards that local authorities 'must' achieve and on which their performance will be measured.

28. The Act aims to strengthen and build on existing **Safeguarding** practice in Wales to ensure that people are able to live their lives to the full. There are new duties to report a child at risk or an adult at risk for all relevant partners of a local authority and also for a local authority to make enquiries if it has reasonable cause to suspect that a person within its area is an adult at risk or to make enquiries if they are informed that a child may be at risk (linking into section 47 of the Children Act); and to take steps to ensure that the child is safe. The Act introduces adult protection and support orders (APSOs). These are a new function designed to enable a local authority to properly assess whether a person is an adult at risk and, if so, to make a decision about any action that should be taken. To grant an order there needs to be reasonable cause to suspect that a person is an adult at risk and that the order is needed to be able to assess them, and that using the order will not result in their being at greater risk of abuse or neglect. APSOs are only to be used in exceptional circumstances where other attempts to speak to the adult considered to be at risk have failed.
29. The Act establishes regional Safeguarding Children and Adults Boards and these are already in place for Cardiff and the Vale, chaired by the Directors of Social Services. These Boards have two main roles - prevention and protection. There is representation on Boards from a range of statutory agencies, such as health, probation and the police, not just local authorities. Children's and Adult Safeguarding Boards have responsibility to review practice and to disseminate information on best practice. Safeguarding Boards should ensure that national policies and procedures are relevant and fit for purpose. Boards must publish a plan each financial year setting out what they intend to do, and a report on progress and work achieved at the end of that year. They can also ask for, and be asked for, information from partner agencies.
30. Children and young people are covered by all parts of the Act and there are specific duties for **looked after and accommodated children and young people, and those leaving care**. The Act replaces most of Part III of the Children Act 1989 (Appendix 1). The assessment of children in need and their families, and the delivery of any services to meet those needs, is being managed through the Eligibility and Assessment of Need workstream, seeking to develop a single and streamlined assessment process.
31. The numbers of looked after children and young people in Wales have been rising. The Act seeks to address this and aims to change the way children and families' care and support needs are met. Key to the Act for children and young people is the importance of promoting their upbringing by their family. This means seeking to de-escalate the need for formal intervention in their lives and to strengthen the capacity of families to care for their children wherever it is safe to do so. Where it is necessary to look after a child, the Act seeks to achieve greater stability for children by increasing the choice of placements locally, supporting continuation of important relationships and school life, and finding the right permanency solution sooner. Creation of the National Adoption Service and regional arrangements for delivering adoption services are a part of this approach. The Vale of Glamorgan is the host authority for the Vale, Valleys and Cardiff service.

32. The Act also introduces new duties, 'post 18 living arrangements', towards young people in foster care who wish to continue living with their foster parents after the age 18. The Welsh Government has developed the "When I am Ready" scheme through which the statutory duties to facilitate post-18 living will be fulfilled. We are currently working on the application of this scheme at a local level.
33. One of the key principles of the Act is collaboration, ensuring strong partnership working between organisations and co-production with people needing care and / or support. Part 9 of the Act focuses on **Co-operation and Partnership** setting out specific responsibilities for Local Authorities to fulfil, in partnership with Health Boards and third sector partners, and gives clear guidance on the oversight of Integrated Health and Social Care arrangements.
34. Local authorities and Local Health Boards will be required to establish Regional Partnership Boards to manage and develop services, to secure strategic planning and partnership working between local authorities and Local Health Boards and to ensure effective services, care and support are in place to best meet the needs of their respective population. The purpose is to ensure that Local Health Boards and local authorities work together to maximise their influence to shape the future development of services. The Cardiff and Vale Integrated Health and Social Care Governance Board will be considering a paper at its next meeting to establish how it can become this Regional Partnership Board. The regulations set out which services will be integrated on a prioritised basis, including arrangements for pooled budgets.
35. The requirement in section 16 that local authorities must **Promote Social Enterprises, Cooperatives and Third Sector Organisations** to provide care and support and preventative service, including those that involve service users in the design and running of services is one of the most distinctive provisions in the Act. The attendant guidance stresses the importance of local authority awareness about procurement opportunities such as those which enable them to give preference to 'not for profit' organisations for certain contracts relating to administrative social, educational, healthcare and cultural services.
36. **Workforce Development** is an essential part of the change programme. Officers have been working with the Care Council for Wales, helping to develop national training materials for four core modules. External trainers have been assigned through the national call off arrangements to deliver workforce development on a prioritised basis in February and March. A training plan has been developed to include the period prior to 6th April 2016 and the months thereafter. Additional resources are also available to help deliver awareness training to elected Members and to provide support for the new Regional Partnership Board which will be established under Part 9 of the Act.
37. As the implementation date approaches, briefings on the Act will increase at a team level to support staff through this period of transition. The delivery of services and business continuity will remain the top priority but it must be balanced by work to continue to deliver changes in services and policy at pace over the over the next twelve months and beyond, in line with the core principles outlined in the Act. It is important that the Director is equipped with the delegated authority needed to manage this balance as well as possible. The new Statutory Code of Guidance setting out the duties and responsibilities of **Directors of Social Services** in Wales is currently laid before the National Assembly for Wales.

Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)

38. The Welsh Government has provided a Delivering Transformation Grant (DTG), since 2014/15 to support the transition for Local Authorities to the new arrangements. It has been confirmed that a further £3 million will be made available from the Sustainable Social Services budget for 2016-17. The Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff will be allocated £425,220 for 2016/17 and, subject to Welsh Government's budgetary decisions, it is intended that this grant will be moved into RSG for 2017-18 in recognition of the ongoing changes which the Act is intended to drive. The grant is managed by the Vale of Glamorgan.
39. There are no long-term resource implications as a direct consequence of this report. However, the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 sets a whole range of new challenges and service user entitlements which will have to be met at a time of severe financial restraints for local government and social services. It has been made clear that there will be no additional resources from the Welsh Government for this purpose, apart from the transitional/transformational funding. Local authorities remain very cautious about whether there will be sufficient resources available to meet increased commitments and expectations in the face of growing demand for services. The Council will need to take into account the budget pressures that will be experienced by the Social Services Directorate as a direct consequence of the Act from the beginning of the next financial year.
40. Local authorities are empowered (but not obliged) to charge for the care and support they provide/arrange to be provided to meet a person's needs. The charge can only relate to the 'cost that the local authority incurs in meeting the needs to which the charge applies' (s59(2)). This restriction is designed to ensure that local authorities do not charge for the actual assessment process – even if the person in need is a 'self-funder'. The Act also requires that the charge imposed be no more than is 'reasonably practicable for the person to pay'. The regulations stipulate that the maximum charge for domiciliary and some other forms of community care remains at £60.00 per week.
41. On 11th November, the Minister issued a Written Statement - Further Update on Reform of the Arrangements for Paying for Social Care and Support. He regrets that continued uncertainty about relevant UK reforms means that he is still not in a position to make informed decisions about the position in Wales. However, Welsh Government will move ahead with implementing an updated financial assessment and charging framework under Act. The regulations and code of practice relating to Parts 4 and 5 of the Act, introducing the updated framework, were laid before the National Assembly on 3rd November.
42. The key elements of the framework include:
 - prohibiting charging for care and support for children;
 - one set of financial assessment and charging arrangements for non-residential and residential care and support rather than one for each at present;
 - maintaining the present weekly maximum charge and "buffer" for non-residential care and support, as well as the current capital limit used to determine who pays the full cost of their residential care themselves;
 - maintaining the current individuals, and forms of care and support, for which a charge cannot be made and introducing a new provision of up to six weeks free reablement

to enable a person to maintain or regain their ability to live independently so as to promote the prevention ethos of the Act;

- introducing more transparency by extending the requirement for all those who receive a charge to receive a statement detailing this and its calculation;
- introducing a consistent, universal review process to enable a person to query charges made and correct errors;
- maintaining deferred payments in residential care to enable those whose property may need to be sold to pay for this to delay its sale until a time more appropriate for them; and by introducing the ability of a local authority to charge a low set rate of interest on the amount deferred; and
- allowing authorities to recover charges and to create a charge over land where a debt occurs.
- The charging arrangements for respite care will change so that the person will be assessed and charged as domiciliary care, rather than residential charging as at present. The estimated cost to the local authority will be approximately £107, 000.
- Some of the details of the new charging provisions are discretionary and officers are currently assessing the impact of the changes on current policies for residential care, non- residential care, deferred payments, direct payments and charging for carer services. We will work with the existing policies until we have completed a full assessment of the changes required, in line with any additional guidance from Welsh Government. This work is likely to be completed within the next four weeks. It may be necessary to make transitional arrangements to provide seamless transfer from the old charging policies to those under the Social Services and Well- being (Wales) Act 2014. Any further changes will be reported verbally at the Cabinet meeting that is to consider this report. It is not anticipated that any citizen would suffer a loss as a result of this delay in implementing the Act.

Sustainability and Climate Change Implications

43. The introduction of the Act is happening within the context of the Sustainable Social Services programme. It is centrally focused on ensuring that the care and support needs of the population in Wales are not only met in the most effective way now but also in the future.
44. Firstly, it will shift the emphasis away from responding to an individual's needs when they are becoming critical, to early intervention and preventative services to minimise the risk of those needs becoming critical in the first place. It will also make better use of resources and solutions already existing within the family or wider community, including the voluntary sector. The Act does not remove or diminish a local authority's responsibilities in any area but it is intended to reduce the reliance on more costly commissioned services over the longer term.
45. The Act also places an emphasis on anticipating and influencing future need through better planning of services based on population needs assessments carried out jointly across the local health board footprint. The result will be targeted services that deal with the needs of the population proactively, thereby reducing the requirement for critical intervention services that would otherwise increase in a growing and ageing population.

Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)

46. The Legal Implications are set out in the main body of this report. In addition, the Act provides the Welsh Ministers with extensive powers to issue 'Directions' to local authorities and to intervene.

Crime and Disorder Implications

47. There are no crime and disorder implications as a direct result of this report.

Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)

48. The Act places duties on persons exercising functions under the Act to have due regard to:

- the United Nations Principles for Older Persons,
- the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child,
- the Public Sector Equality Duty contained in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010,
- the Welsh Government's framework for Action on Independent Living, and
- the Welsh Government strategic framework for Welsh language services in Health, Social Services and Social Care: "More than just words".

49. Specifically, the Act stresses throughout its constituent parts that all people presenting with needs that are of a care and support nature have an equal right to have those needs assessed and met, subject only to the provisions of the eligibility criteria set out in Part 4. The only deviations from that principle are in relation to those held in the secure estate, and Part 11 of the Act sets out how individual provisions are either modified or excluded in that case.

50. The eligibility criteria are related to causal circumstances, identified needs, and the availability of solutions, and are applied to the needs and not the person.

51. "Sustainable Social Services for Wales – A Framework for Action" recognises the diversity of Wales, including its status as a bilingual nation, and the introduction of the Act is entirely within the context of the Sustainable Social Services programme.

52. As part of the due diligence phase of the Act, Welsh Government carried out impact assessments on key parts of the Act in relation to equal opportunities and the rights of those with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. All the outputs are available on the Welsh Government website but the individual impact assessments are referenced below.

53. Equality Impact Assessments, Children's Rights Impact Assessments and Welsh Language Impact Assessments were carried out for:

- Part 2 (General Functions),
- Part 3 (Assessment of Need),
- Part 4 (Eligibility and Care Planning),
- Part 5 (Charging and Financial Assessment),
- Part 6 (Looked After and Accommodated Children), and
- Part 7 (Safeguarding for Adults and children).

54. Additionally, Children's Rights Impact Assessments were carried out for Parts 9 (Co-operation and Partnership) and 10 (Complaints, Representations and Advocacy Services), as well as a Welsh Language Impact Assessment for Part 10.
55. In all cases the assessments concluded that there were either positive, negligible or no impacts. No negative impacts were identified.
56. The Welsh Government has undertaken a range of engagement activities in relation to the development of regulations and code of practice to support implementation of the provisions contained in the Act. A series of Technical Groups were initially established to inform the development of policy in relation to the Act. Membership of these groups was drawn from local authorities, Local Health Boards, the third sector, and the independent sector as well as policy leads within Welsh Government.
57. Draft codes of practice and supporting regulations were subject to public consultation (including consultation events held across Wales) before being laid before the National Assembly for Wales during the last quarter of 2015. This consultation process included a wide range of stakeholder organisations and every stage of engagement included people with protected characteristics or those representing these groups. Details of the consultation process and the outcomes were published on the Welsh Government website.
58. Further all-Wales engagement events brought together representatives from the local authorities, NHS partners, third sector and independent sector, to look at how the various parts of the Act would work together to deliver sustainable social services.

Corporate/Service Objectives

59. Social services meets the following corporate objectives:
 - "To make the Vale a safe, healthy and enjoyable place in which individuals, children and families can live their lives to the full"; and
 - "To manage the Council's workforce, money and assets efficiently and effectively in order to maximise its ability to achieve its service aims."

Policy Framework and Budget

60. This is a matter for Executive decision.

Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)

61. There are no matters in this report which relate only to an individual ward. Since April 2014, each meeting of the Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee has received an update report on emerging aspects of the statutory framework and the preparatory work being undertaken locally and regionally to ensure readiness for implementing the legislation. These reports have been referred to Cabinet for consideration.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

62. Social Care and Health.

Background Papers

- Scrutiny Committee Report: 7th November, 2013: Sustainable Social Services for Wales: A Framework for Action and the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Bill
- Scrutiny Committee Report 14th January, 2014: Sustainable Social Services for Wales: A Framework for Action
- Scrutiny Committee Report 13th April 2015: Implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
- Scrutiny Committee Report 15th June 2015: Implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
- Scrutiny Committee Report 13th July 2015: Implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
- Scrutiny Committee Report 8th September 2015: Implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
- Scrutiny Committee Report 5th October 2015: Implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
- Scrutiny Committee Report 30th November 2015: Implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
- Scrutiny Committee Report 4th January 2016: Implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014

Appendices

- Appendix 1 lists the consequential repeals and amendments to existing primary legislation
- Appendix 2 provides the web links to those Statutory Codes of Guidance that have been passed by Welsh Government
- Appendix 3 - provides the web links to those Regulations that have been passed by Welsh Government
- Appendix 4 – Regional Governance structure supporting preparations for implementing the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
- Appendix 5 – Assessment of need processes/systems
- Appendix 6 - Draft Information, Advice and Assistance Service

Contact Officer

Philip Evans, Directors of Social Services

Officers Consulted

Corporate Management Team

Responsible Officer:

Philip Evans, Directors of Social Services