

## **The Vale of Glamorgan Council**

### **Cabinet Meeting: 17 July, 2017**

### **Report of the Cabinet Member for Social Care, Health and Leisure**

### **Update on Implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act, 2014**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To advise Cabinet members of the progress relating to the first year post-implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

#### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Notes the report detailing progress in the past year.
2. Notes the areas identified for ongoing work.
3. Refers the report for information to the Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee.

#### **Reasons for the Recommendations**

1. To ensure that Cabinet members are informed about the impact of changes in the policy and legislative framework to practice as a consequence of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.
2. To ensure that the Vale of Glamorgan Council remains compliant with the requirements outlined under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.
3. To ensure that the Committee is able to exercise effective oversight of the policy and its implementation.

#### **Background**

2. The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (the Act) became operational from April 6th, 2016. During the planning for implementation and the first year post implementation, Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet members have received regular reports to ensure they are aware of the changes required to implement the new policy and legislative frameworks.

3. The implementation of the Act has been managed on a regional basis. The regional implementation has been overseen by the Regional Steering Group, which comprises members from both Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff Councils and the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (UHB). This group has met monthly and been supported by several task and finish groups which has led on the particular areas requiring change.
4. The Regional implementation has been led by the Vale of Glamorgan's Social Services Director to date. Each Regional Task and Finish Group has been chaired by a Head of Service. This has provided effective leadership and been able to achieve organisational change.
5. The region appointed a Regional Co-ordinator to ensure that the implementation of this Act has been effectively project managed and to provide additional capacity to ensure momentum has been maintained whilst officers have continued to implement alongside the operational demands of running the existing service.
6. To support the Regional co-ordinator role, we also enlisted a project support officer, 2 business improvement partners and also at least one change champion in both Adults and Children's Services during the past year.
7. The change champion role has been key to the successful implementation of the Act. These champions are existing staff who were released from their substantive roles to allow them to learn new practices, teach their colleagues and model the change that was required in practice. This peer support proved very successful as it has embedded the practice to become business as usual, and practitioners have owned the required changes and translated legislation into practice.
8. Welsh Government supported the implementation of the Act through grant funding referred to as the Delivering Transformation Grant (DTG), which was awarded on a regional basis and managed by Social Services in the Vale of Glamorgan Council. The funding was £425,000 per annum. The DTG ceased in March 2017, with the allocation being included in each Local Authorities budget allocation under the Revenue Support Grant and will now be ongoing funding.
9. However, due to our successful regional approach it has been agreed that both Council's continue to ring fence this allocation for the implementation of the Act, and the allocation will be managed through the Vale of Glamorgan Council and scrutinised via the regular Regional Steering Group meetings.

## **Relevant Issues and Options**

10. Following the implementation of the Act in April, 2016, a formal Regional Partnership Board (RPB) was set up and meets currently on a quarterly basis. The requirements for the RPB are clearly articulated within Part 9 of the Act. This area of work has been the responsibility of the Assistant Director for Integration for Health and Social Care. This joint appointment between both Local Authorities and the Health Board leads this area of work and supports the management of the Intermediate Care Fund (ICF). Members of the Regional Steering Group continue to be involved and support this aspect of the implementation.
11. Welsh Government has been keen to ensure that the use of DTG funding has been effective. As a consequence there has been close working relationships with Welsh Government to support the implementation and provide feedback regarding unintended consequences of the implementation of the Act. Officers have prepared reports to Welsh Government as requested and attended Accountability meetings

with the Implementation Lead. Attached at [Appendix One](#) is the annual report that was prepared for the final DTG Accountability meeting held in May 2017, reflecting the areas of work completed and identifying the priority areas for 2017-18.

12. The Association of Directors for Social Services (ADSS Cymru) continues to be commissioned to provide support between regions. There have been several meetings and workshops facilitated during the past twelve months to allow regions to share best practice, and to feedback and problem solve where there are issues. This region has supported these events and benefitted from being able to have access to this network.
13. Significant progress has been made in the first year of implementation of the Act. Many elements are now considered business as usual. There remain areas which were afforded less priority in the first year of implementation. The priority areas identified for 2017-18 are:
  - To retain capacity and leadership of a named individual at Director or Head of Service level to lead a team across the regional board to:
    - Continue to work with the Association of Directors of Social Services Cymru, to drive forward the programme of change to implement the Act in collaboration with footprint partners particularly the NHS, third and private sectors;
    - support the implementation of the new statutory partnership (RPB) and the delivery of a plan and their statutory duties.
  - To continue delivering a regional plan agreed with NHS, third and private sector partners reflecting key priorities and key responsibilities for delivery.
  - To support the ongoing implementation and review of processes and practice in relation to assessment, eligibility, care planning. Further development of guidance to support practice and to promote the Act to external agencies and providers. Support the development of policies and ensure representation at the national work streams.
  - To provide consistency in the performance measurement framework.
  - To ensure effective implementation of the Welsh Community Care Information System (WCCIS) within the Council, and ensure consistency across the region.
  - To continue to implement the DEWIS Cymru information portal across the region, developing sustainable models for the future provision of accessible information.
  - To develop new models of service for preventative services, commissioning and social enterprises, responding to population assessments and the market position statement.
  - To implement a Social Value Forum across the region to encourage a flourishing social value sector that is able and willing to fulfil service delivery opportunities.
  - Advocacy for children - to ensure a regional contract is in place in June 2017 that will enable us to adopt The National Approach to Statutory Advocacy for Children and Young People that has been endorsed across Wales.
  - Advocacy for adults – continue working with the Golden Threads Project to jointly commission an Independent Professional Advocacy Service or a range of Independent Professional Advocacy Services.
  - To ensure sustainable arrangements are in place for citizen engagement, with investment in developing our engagement strategies.

- Increase Commissioning Capacity to support the implementation of joint commissioning and pooled budgets.
  - Safeguarding – continue to support the Local Adults Safeguarding Board to ensure that processes are developed on a regional footprint in relation to ‘Adults at risk’ and the capacity for teams to respond to safeguarding concerns with appropriate training. Raise awareness to professionals, providers and the public on issues relating to safeguarding, and consider how we can progress regional working appropriately with other partners.
14. The number of Task and Finish Groups are fewer now, clearly demonstrating that practice is becoming embedded. The work programme for 2017-18 will be monitored through the Regional Steering Group, with the responsibility for ongoing implementation and continued compliance being with the Head of Resources Management and Safeguarding role, and the Assistant Director for Integration (Part 9 of the Act).

### **Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)**

15. There are no long-term resource implications as a direct consequence of this report. However, the Act 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.
16. It is essential that the Council continues to take account of the budget pressures that will be experienced by the Social Services Directorate as a direct consequence of the Act.
17. In previous years Welsh Government has given the Vale of Glamorgan Council monies to oversee the implementation of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act on behalf of the Cardiff and Vale region. This was in the form of the delivering transformation Grant, and amounted to £425,000. However, from this financial year (2017-18), Welsh Government has determined to pay each Local Authority an amount into the Revenue Support Grant. The amount for the Vale of Glamorgan in relation to this is £106,000 and for Cardiff this amounts to £319,000.

### **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

18. Effective delivery of the new statutory responsibilities is intended to ensure that the Council's assets are managed efficiently and effectively and that best use is made of the resources available for social care services, establishing sustainable models of assistance and support as well as contributing to the most appropriate ways of meeting the needs of vulnerable people.

### **Legal Implications (to include Human Rights Implications)**

19. There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations arising from this report.

### **Crime and Disorder Implications**

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

## **Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)**

21. "Sustainable Social Services for Wales – A Framework for Action" recognises the diversity of Wales, including its status as a bilingual nation.

## **Corporate/Service Objectives**

22. The work outlined in this report addresses the following corporate objectives outlined in the Corporate Plan 2016-2020. Key objectives of the Council set out in the Corporate Plan 2016-20 and addressed by this report are:
- Wellbeing Outcome 4: An Active and Healthy Vale
  - Objective 8 : Safeguarding those who are vulnerable and promoting independent living.

## **Policy Framework and Budget**

23. These are matters for Executive decision by Cabinet.

## **Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)**

24. There are no matters in this report which relate to an individual ward.

## **Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

25. Healthy Living and Social Care

## **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

Scrutiny Committee Report 1st February 2016: Implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014

Scrutiny Committee Report 7th March 2016: Implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014

Scrutiny Committee Report 10th October 2016: Implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014

Scrutiny Committee Report 13th March 2017: Implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014

### **Contact Officer**

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