

Meeting of:	<b>Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>Tuesday, 06 July 2021</b>
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Healthy Living and Social Care
Report Title:	Annual Report of the Director of Social Services 2020-2021 – Challenge Version
Purpose of Report:	To ensure that Elected Members received a copy of the Director’s Annual Report, contribute to the challenge process and agree the future priorities for the service.
Report Owner:	Director of Social Services
Responsible Officer:	Director of Social Services
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Social Services Senior Management Team
Policy Framework:	This is a matter for Executive decision
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This challenge version of the Director’s report allows members and stakeholders an opportunity to comment and inform a future final draft which will be considered by Cabinet.</li> </ul>	

## **Recommendations**

1. That Scrutiny Committee considers the content of this report.
2. Considers the improvement priorities for Social Services as set out in the Director's Annual Report for 2020-2021 – Challenge Version.
3. Contributes proposals for changes to the Annual Report as part of the challenge process.

## **Reason for Recommendations**

1. 1,2 &3– To provide Elected Members with an opportunity to contribute to the challenge process for the Director's Annual Report 2020-2021.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 As part of statutory duties, the Director of Social Services is required by the Welsh Government to produce an annual report on the effectiveness of social care services in the Vale of Glamorgan and on the plans for improvement. This gives the Director an opportunity to provide people in the Vale with a rounded picture of social services – based on evidence drawn from a wide range of sources such as what users and carers say, key performance indicators, and measurements of progress against the overall goals of the Council.
- 1.2 The report is written for a wide range of people, including service users and carers but also Elected Members, the Council's own staff, and the range of partners and providers who help us deliver our services. It is used by Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) as evidence and to guide their inspection programme in the Vale of Glamorgan.
- 1.3 In planning how we will deliver services over the coming years, we have put in place a Service Plan to cover the period up until 2022 which provides an overview of the Directorate's improvement work.
- 1.4 The report reflects on progress over the last financial year and links to objectives in the Corporate Plan which reflect the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

## **2. Key Issues for Consideration**

- 2.1 This is an important report for the people of the Vale of Glamorgan, members of the Council and our partners, both statutory and in other sectors. It outlines the current context within which social services are operating and details proposed priorities for improvement. A challenge version of the Director's report is found on the following link: <https://sway.office.com/GOBm0HRsTESWUX5t?ref=Link>
- 2.2 The format of the report has been set out as a requirement by Welsh Government through regulation from 2017/18. The directorate brought the

Director's Report into closer alignment with the Council's Corporate and Service Planning mechanisms to avoid duplication.

- 2.3 The report represents the views of the Director and other managers in Social Services and is not Council policy at this stage.
- 2.4 This year, the report has again been prepared during the Covid-19 pandemic. While this is reflected within the report it is important to note that there has been no change to the expectation that a report is completed.
- 2.5 Unfortunately, this year it has not been possible, due to pressures as a result of the pandemic, to review the priority setting with service users and carers. Service users and carers have been engaged with the services throughout and the Director has endeavoured to ensure the priorities have been informed through this process.
- 2.6 Circulating a challenge version is intended to allow key stakeholders opportunities to comment and make observations before the report is finalised, ensuring that it accurately reflects the position of social services. Attached at Appendix 1 is the Challenge Feedback Form.
- 2.7 As part of the challenge process, the report is presented to Scrutiny Committee to provide Elected Members with an opportunity to contribute their views. This is regarded as a key milestone in finalising the report because of the crucial role which the Committee has in providing consistent oversight and monitoring of social services.
- 2.8 The final report will be presented to Cabinet for approval of the priority objectives and then circulated widely. It will be made available via the Council's website.

### **3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?**

- 3.1 The need to ensure that services are sustainable in the longer-term is a key element in the priority outcomes set out in the annual report. This is consistent with the direction set by Welsh Government for delivering sustainable social services through greater emphasis on prevention and people accepting more responsibility for tackling factors which can increase demand for social care and health services.

### **4. Resources and Legal Considerations**

#### **Financial**

- 4.1 The report is set out within the context of:
  - increasing demand for help and support;
  - managing the impact of the UK Government's austerity measures on public sector finances, which means ongoing cuts to budgets for the foreseeable future; and

- efforts to focus more of our work on supporting people to remain as independent as possible.
- 4.2** The priority objectives contained in the reports will be delivered within the financial constraints set by the Social Services Budget Programme, which is approved by Cabinet and reported regularly.

### **Employment**

- 4.3** There are no employment issues as a result of this report.

### **Legal (Including Equalities)**

- 4.4** The former reporting requirements for Directors of Social Services in Part 6 of the “Statutory Guidance on the Role and Accountabilities of the Director of Social Services” (Welsh Government June 2009) have been replaced as a consequence of both the Social Services and Well-Being Act 2014, and the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016.
- 4.5** The requirements for the social services report are contained in a number of pieces of legislation and codes. In purely headline terms the requirements are that every local authority must produce an annual report on the discharge of its social services functions and the report must include:
- An evaluation of the performance in delivering social services functions for the past year including lessons learned (Part 8 Code on the role of the Director).
  - How the local authority has achieved the six quality standards for well-being outcomes (set out in the code on measuring performance).
  - Qualitative and quantitative data relating to the achievement of well-being outcomes (also set out in the code on measuring performance).
  - The extent to which the local authority has met requirements under Parts 3 and 4 of the SSWB Act as set out in separate codes covering assessing needs and meeting needs.
  - Objectives for promoting the well-being of people needing care and support and carers needing support for the following year including those identified by population needs assessments under section 14 of the SSWEB Act.
  - Assurances concerning: structural arrangements enabling good governance and strong accountability, effective partnership working via Partnership Boards and safeguarding arrangements.
  - The local authority’s performance in handling and investigating complaints responses to any inspections of its social services functions.
  - An update on Welsh language provision on how the local authority has engaged people (including children) in the production of the report.

## **5. Background Papers**

The Local Authority Annual Social Services Reports Guidance:

[https://socialcare.wales/cms\\_assets/hub-downloads/The Local Authority Annual Social Services Reports Guidance.pdf](https://socialcare.wales/cms_assets/hub-downloads/The_Local_Authority_Annual_Social_Services_Reports_Guidance.pdf)