
CABINET PROPOSAL

**ANNUAL COUNCIL REPORTING FRAMEWORK - LOCAL AUTHORITY
SOCIAL SERVICES REPORT 2017/18**

Reason for this Report

1. The purpose of this report is for the Cabinet to receive the 9th Annual Report of Local Authority Social Services (Appendix 1) as required by the Welsh Government. The requirement is outlined in the document 'Part 8 Code of Practice on the Role of the Director of Social Services (Social Services Functions)' issued under Part 8 of the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWB Act).

Background

2. From 2009/10, each council in Wales has been required to produce and publish an Annual Report as part of an Annual Council Reporting Framework (ACRF) for Social Services.
3. This is the 9th Annual Report of Local Authority Social Services, and the second such report since the implementation of the SSWB Act in April 2016. The Report is specifically authored by the incumbent Director for the period under consideration and therefore, in this case, by our previous Director of Social Services, Tony Young, who retired from his post in April 2018.
4. The systems and processes established to inform its production have been refined and developed in 2017/18 to take account of learning from previous years. Feedback and comments received on the report this year will be taken into consideration during the preparation of future reports.
5. The Report will be submitted to the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW). The Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act places the Annual Report on a statutory footing and CIW no longer produce an individual performance evaluation report for each council. Verbal feedback will be provided at a Performance Review Meeting in September between CIW, the Director of Social Services and relevant (invited) elected member portfolio holders.
6. The priorities for action identified in the Annual Report are reflected in the Directorate Delivery Plan for Social Services for 2018/19.

Issues

7. The Report was finalised as a result of engaging managers and staff in a structured challenge process.
8. In previous years, the need to improve the opportunity for citizens who use or are eligible for social services to engage in some level of challenge prior to finalising the report and lessons learned has been noted. In recent years, the Director and senior managers, alongside members of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee have engaged in a face to face challenge session with young people based upon their own analysis of the report. This has been a positive and mutually beneficial experience and a similar event with young people is being arranged this year.
9. Social Services approached a number of stakeholder organisations via C3SC regarding the challenge process and they responded positively, being keen to engage and provide feedback. A draft version of the outcomes and actions contained within the report was issued to these organisations and their feedback resulted in amendments to the report.
10. Social Services also approached members of the public via the Citizen Panel and invited them to rate their level of agreement with the outcome statements included in the report. 195 responses were received and feedback from the exercise is included in the report.

Scrutiny Consideration

11. The draft Report was considered at a joint meeting of the Children & Young People and Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committees on 4th July 2018. The letter from the Chair is attached at Appendix 2.

Reasons for Recommendations

12. To receive the Annual Report of Local Authority Social Services for 2017/18 in order to fulfil the responsibilities required by the Welsh Government in the document entitled 'Part 8 Code of Practice on the Role of the Director of Social Services (Social Services Functions)'.

Legal Implications

13. The reporting requirements for local authority social services have been placed on a statutory footing by Part 8 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWB Act) and Regulations and Codes issued thereunder. The new legal provisions came into effect in September 2017.
14. Each local authority is required to produce an annual report on the discharge of its social services functions (pursuant to s.144A of the SSWB Act), which must include:
 - i. an evaluation of the performance in delivering social services functions for the past year, including lessons learned;

- ii. how the local authority has achieved the six quality standards for well-being outcomes;
 - iii. qualitative and quantitative data relating to the achievement of well-being outcomes;
 - iv. the extent to which the local authority has met the requirements under Parts 3 and 4 of the SSWB Act;
 - v. 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 SSWB Act;
 - vi. assurances concerning:
 - structural arrangements enabling good governance and strong accountability;
 - effective partnership working via Partnership Boards; and
 - safeguarding arrangements;
 - vii. the local authority's performance in handling and investigating complaints;
 - viii. responses to any inspections of its social services functions;
 - ix. an update on Welsh language provision; and
 - x. how the local authority has engaged people (including children) in the production of the report.
15. The report must be:
- i. published as soon as practicable after 31st March of the year to which it relates;
 - ii. presented to the council by the director;
 - iii. copied to Welsh Ministers; and
 - iv. made available on the local authority's website.
16. The Local Authority Social Services Annual reports (Prescribed Form) (Wales) Regulations 2017 prescribe the format and headings of the report, which must be followed.
17. Non-statutory guidance has been issued by the Association of Directors of Social Services and Welsh Government (<http://www.adsscymru.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/LASSAR-Annual-Report-Guidance.pdf>) which provides guidance on the statutory requirements and best practice. The guidance states that: 'Although the report must be delivered to the council by the director, it is the local authority's report on the performance of its social services functions. It needs to explain how the wider functions of the local authority such as transport, housing, education and leisure have contributed and will continue to contribute to the achievement of individuals' well-being outcomes.' (paragraph 4.13)
18. Legal Services is instructed that the Annual Report for 2017/18 meets the requirements set out in Part 8 of the SSWB and the Codes and Regulations issued thereunder, and complies with the non-statutory guidance, as referred to above.
19. Under executive arrangements, social services functions are the responsibility of the Cabinet (pursuant to section 13(2) of the Local

Government Act 2000 and Regulations made thereunder, SI 2007/399), which means that the Cabinet is authorised to approve the Local Authority's Social Services Annual Report, prior to submission of the report by the Director of Social Services to full Council.

Financial Implications

20. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

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Council is recommended to approve the Local Authority's Social Services Annual Report for 2017/18

THE CABINET

13 July 2018

The following Appendices are attached:

Appendix 1: Director of Social Services Annual Report 2017/18

Appendix 2: Letter from Chair of Scrutiny

The following Background Papers have been taken into account:

Part 8 Code of Practice on the Role of the Director of Social Services (Social Services Functions)

The Local Authority Annual Social Services Reports - Guidance