
CHILDREN'S SERVICES– DIRECTORATE DELIVERY PLAN 2019-2020

REASON FOR THE REPORT

1. To enable Members to gain an overview of Children's Services (which falls within the responsibilities of this Committee) and its contributions to the Council's Corporate Plan, its key achievements during the previous year and an outline of the future challenges facing the directorate.

SCOPE OF SCRUTINY

2. This report will provide the Committee with an opportunity to gain an understanding of the operation of Children's Services and its key priorities for this year. It will also enable Members to enquire as to:
 - i. How these key priorities were identified and what criteria were used?
 - ii. How was it judged that the associated key tasks would help either improve/ make services for pupils more effective?
 - iii. Identify the key challenges for the next year

THE COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK

3. The Council's integrated strategic planning framework (see diagram overleaf) sets out the "golden thread" in meeting the Council's four key priorities of:
 - Working for Cardiff
 - Working for Wales
 - Working for the Future
 - Working for Public Services



4. The Delivery Plan follows a standard format, which is:

- Corporate Introduction
- Directorate Profile
- Directorate Self-Assessment of Performance 2018/19.
- Moving Forward: Context, Opportunities and Challenges
- Contributing to Cardiff's Well-Being Objectives
- Delivering Welsh Language Standards
- Strategic Directorate Priorities

DELIVERY PLAN 2019 - 2020

5. The Plan is attached at **Appendix A**. To assist Members, listed below are the pages relevant for each key section:
 - a. Directorate Profile – **page 4** of the Plan
 - b. Directorate Self-Assessment of Performance 2018/19 – **pages 5-9** of the Plan
 - c. Moving Forward: Context, Opportunities and Challenges – **page 10** of the Plan
 - d. Contributing to Cardiff's Well-Being Objectives – **page 10** of the Plan
 - e. Delivering Welsh Language Standards – **pages 10-11** of the Plan
 - f. Strategic Directorate Priorities – **pages 12-76** of the Plan.

6. The Directorate's **Self-Assessment of Performance during 2018-19** (pages 5-9) sets out what the Directorate has done well, what the Directorate could/should have done better and what opportunities and challenges the Directorate faced.

7. The **Moving Forward: Context, Opportunities and Challenges Section** on page 10 of the Plan sets out issues that the Directorate must take into account in planning future delivery.

8. The **Strategic Directorate Priorities** Section, from page 12 onwards, sets out in detail, under each Strategic Directorate Priority, the following:
 - Summary of Priorities
 - Key Performance Indicators
 - Risk Management
 - Dependencies
 - Key Actions - Individual Headline Actions, with
 - Start/End Date
 - Responsible Officer
 - Key Milestones for each quarter in 2019/20
 - Link to Equality Objective

9. The key actions (from page 16 onwards) all fall within the terms of reference for this Scrutiny Committee unless they have AS¹ in their reference.

Way Forward

10. At the meeting, Councillor Graham Hinchey (Cabinet Member, Children and Families) may wish to make a statement. Claire Marchant (Director of Social Services) and Deborah Driffield (Interim Assistant Director, Children's Services) will attend to brief the Committee on the work undertaken by the service and the key challenges facing Children's Services during the coming year.
11. Members may wish to explore the following areas:
 - a. How the Directorate is supporting delivery of the Council's Key Priorities and Cardiff's Well-Being Objectives via the commitments detailed in the Strategic Directorate Priorities Section;
 - b. How the Directorate's priorities were identified and what criteria were used;
 - c. Whether the milestones and timescales for commitments are appropriate and achievable;
 - d. What the arrangements are for monitoring the implementation of the Delivery Plan commitments;
 - e. Whether the performance measures are appropriate and fit for purpose;
 - f. The Directorates' resource levels and whether these are sufficient to resource the commitments in Strategic Directorate Priorities Section;
 - g. The key challenges facing the Directorate and how they are planning for the future; and
 - h. The Directorate' key achievements during 2018/19.

Legal Implications

12. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications.

¹ AS stands for Adult Services, which is scrutinised by the Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee

However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers of behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

13. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to:

- (i) review the information contained in this report; and
- (ii) Identify any issues which should be considered for inclusion on the Committee's 2019/20 work programme.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance and Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

6 June 2019