
LOCAL AUTHORITY SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022

Purpose of Report

1. To provide Members with background information to facilitate their scrutiny of the draft Local Authority Social Services Annual Report 2021/22, attached at **Appendix A**, prior to consideration by the Cabinet and Council.

Scope of Scrutiny

2. The scope of this scrutiny is for Members to review the Local Authority Social Services Annual Report, and to consider the following:
 - I. The report's evaluation of the performance in delivering children's social care for the past year including lessons learned
 - II. How the local authority has achieved the Welsh Government's six quality standards for well-being outcomes (see **Appendix B** for details)
 - III. The extent to which the local authority has met requirements under Parts 3 and 4 of the Social Services Well-being (Wales) Act which relates to assessing and meeting needs
 - IV. Assurances regarding:
 - governance and accountability
 - effective partnership work
 - safeguarding arrangements
 - V. The local authority's performance in handling and investigating complaints
 - VI. Responses to any inspections of its social services functions

- VII. How the local authority has engaged residents in the production of the report
- VIII. Discuss whether further scrutiny is required within a particular area relevant to this Committee's terms of reference.

Members are reminded that the content of the report which relates to Children's Services falls into this Committee's terms of reference.

Structure of Papers

3. The following Appendices are attached to this cover report:

Appendix A – draft Local Authority Social Services Annual Report 2021/22

Appendix B – Summary of Welsh Government's code of practice for measuring social service performance.

Appendix C – Directorate response to challenges raised regarding the draft LASSAR that was circulated to consultees in August 2022.

Appendix D - Children's Services Directorate's Delivery Plan (DDP)

Appendix E - Regional Market Stability Report (MSR).

Appendix F – Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee (CPAC) Annual Report 2021/22

4. Committee Members are to note the Local Authority Social Services Annual Report (LASSAR) should be read in conjunction with the Directorate's Delivery Plan (DDP) (attached at **Appendix D**), as the DDP sets out the detail of how the planned actions for 2022/23, identified in the LASSAR, are to be taken forward.
5. Committee Members are reminded that in the summer of 2022, the service area shared a draft version of the LASSAR with key consultees (including the Council's Community & Adult and Children Young People Scrutiny Committees) seeking their feedback. Feedback received from all consultees in this exercise is detailed at **Appendix C**; along with the Directorate's response.

6. Committee Members are to note the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 requires local authorities within each Regional Partnership Board (RPB) area to work with their local health board to develop a Regional Market Stability Report (MSR). This MSR is a high-level strategic assessment of whether the regional care and support market can meet the care and support needs established through the Population Needs Analysis (PNA). This MSR covers the period of mid 2022 – 2026 and has been used to inform the LASSAR and is attached at **Appendix E**.
7. The Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee (CPAC) Annual Report 2021/22 will be attached as an Appendix to the LASSAR Cabinet report. Therefore, this is also attached for Members' information and reference at **Appendix F**.

Background Context - Local Social Services Annual Report (LASSAR) 2021-22

8. The purpose of the LASSAR is to set out the local authority's improvement journey in providing services to people in their areas. Those who access information, advice and assistance, and those individuals and carers in receipt of care and support. Under the requirements of the Social Services and Well-being (SSWB) Act, the report needs to demonstrate how local authorities have promoted well-being and accounted for the delivery of well-being standards.
9. The Annual Report should reflect the experiences of service providers and services users. The Annual Report is a key way for local authorities to demonstrate accountability to citizens and should therefore be accessible to people, including service users. The Directorate should ensure that annual reports are not overly long and are written in a clear and concise way.
10. The report must be:
 - published "as soon as practicable" after the year to which it relates
 - presented to the Council by the Director
 - copied to Welsh Ministers
 - available on the local authority's website.

11. The LASSAR is attached at **Appendix A**. *Members are reminded that the areas of the report relevant to this Committee's terms of reference are Children's Services.*

The report includes:

- Introduction (*pages 2-5*);
 - Children Services Overview (*pages 6-16*)
 - Transition to Adulthood (*page 17*)
 - Adult Services Overview (*pages 18-31*)
 - Priorities for 2022/23 (*pages 32-33*)
 - Inspection Outcomes (*page 34*)
 - How Are People Shaping our Services (*pages 35 -42*);
 - Promoting and improving the well-being of those we help (*page 43*):
(set out under the six well-being objectives)
 - i. Working with people to define and co-produce personal well-being outcomes that people wish to achieve (*pages 43-46*);
 - ii. Working with people and partners to protect and promote people's physical and mental health and emotional well-being (*pages 47-50*);
 - iii. Taking steps to protect and safeguard people from abuse, neglect or harm (*pages 51-54*);
 - iv. Encouraging and supporting People to learn, develop and participate in society (*pages 55-58*);
 - v. Supporting people to safely develop and maintain healthy domestic, family and personal relationships (*pages 59-62*);
 - vi. Working with and supporting people to achieve greater economic well-being, have a social life and live in suitable accommodation that meets their needs (*pages 63-64*);
1. How we do what we do (*pages 65-66*)
- i. Our workforce and how we support their professional roles (*pages 67-70*);
 - ii. Our financial resources and how we plan for the future (*pages 71-72*)

Way Forward

12. Councillor Ash Lister, Cabinet Member for Social Services (Children's) will be in attendance and may wish to make a statement. Following any opening statement provided by the Cabinet Member, the Committee will then have the opportunity to ask the Cabinet Members and officers questions on the Annual Report.

Legal Implications

13. The Scrutiny Committees are 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. 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 of 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 on 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 circumstance.

Financial Implications

14. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. These financial implications will need to be considered before any changes are implemented.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to:

- i. Consider the contents of the report, appendices and information provided at the meeting and report any comments, observations and recommendations to the Cabinet prior to its consideration of the report; and
- ii. Consider the way forward for the future scrutiny of the issues raised in the Annual Report 2021-22 and the future challenges and priorities for 2022-23 for inclusion within the Committee's work programme.

DAVINA FIORE

Director of Governance and Legal Services

12 October 2022