
LOCAL AUTHORITY SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023

Purpose of the Cover Report

1. To provide Members with background information to facilitate their scrutiny of the draft Local Authority Social Services Annual Report 2022/23, attached at **Appendix 1**, prior to consideration by the Cabinet and Council.

Structure of the meeting

2. The purpose of this agenda item will be for the proposed Local Authority Social Services Annual Report 2022/23 to be considered in its entirety.
As such, present for this agenda item will be Committee Members of the Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee, and the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee. Members are therefore requested to ask questions pertaining to their 'home' committee, or general overarching, cross-cutting issues (such as general governance arrangements / layout etc).
3. The agenda item will begin with the Cabinet Member being offered the opportunity to make an opening statement, after which, the question-and-answer session will begin.
4. Councillor Norma Mackie (Cabinet Member – Adult Services), Sarah McGill (Corporate Director – People & Communities), Jane Thomas (Director, Adults, Housing & Communities) and Deborah Driffield (Director, Children Services) will be available to answer Members questions.
5. Members are advised Cllr Ash Lister is unable to attend the meeting and so, his statement is included in the papers at **Appendix 5**.

Structure of Papers

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

Appendix 1 – draft Local Authority Social Services Annual Report 2022/23

Appendix 2 – Directorate response to challenges raised when a draft LASSAR, was circulated to consultees in the summer of 2023.

Appendix 3 - Cardiff Council's Social Services Annual Complaint, Compliments and Members Enquiries Report April 2022 – March 2023

Appendix 4 – Annual Report of the Corporate Safeguarding Board 2022/23

Appendix 5 – Statement of Cllr Ash Lister, Cabinet Member – Children's Services

7. Members are to note, the Local Authority Social Services Annual Report (LASSAR), should be read in conjunction with the Directorate's Delivery Plan (DDP), as the DDP sets out the detail of how the 2023/24 priorities identified in the LASSAR, are to be taken forward. Members have previously received their relevant service area's Directorate Delivery Plan. However, should they wish for redistribution, they are requested to contact their relevant scrutiny officer.
8. Members are reminded that in the summer of 2023, the service area shared a draft version of the Annual Report 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 2**; along with the directorate's response.
9. **Appendix 3** and **4** have been used to inform the drafting of the Local Authority Social Services Annual Report.

Scope of Scrutiny

10. The scope of this scrutiny is for Members to review the draft Local Authority Social Services Annual Report, and to consider the following:

Draft Local Social Services Annual Report 2022-23

- I. The report's evaluation of the performance in delivering social care for the past year including lessons learned.

- II. 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.
- III. Assurances regarding:
 - governance and accountability
 - effective partnership work
 - safeguarding arrangements
- IV. Responses to any inspections of its social services functions
- V. How the local authority has engaged residents in the production of the report.
- VI. Discuss whether further scrutiny is required within a particular area relevant to their Committee's terms of reference.

Background Context - Local Social Services Annual Report (LASSAR) 2022-23

11. 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.
12. The Annual Report should reflect the experiences of service providers and services users. The Annual Report is a keyway 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 concisely.
13. The report must be:
 - published "as soon as practicable" after the year to which it relates.
 - presented to the Council.
 - copied to Welsh Ministers
 - available on the local authority's website.
14. The proposed LASSAR is attached at **Appendix 1** and includes:

- Introduction (*pages 2-5*);
- Children Services Overview (*pages 6-23*)
- Transition to Adulthood (*pages 24-25*)
- Adult Services Overview (*pages 26-41*)
- Priorities for 2023/24 (*pages 42-43*)
- Inspection Outcomes (*pages 44-45*)
- How Are People Shaping our Services (*pages 46-53*);
- Promoting and improving the well-being of those we help (*page 54*):
 - (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 54-57*);
 - ii. Working with people and partners to protect and promote people's physical and mental health and emotional well-being (*pages 59-62*);
 - iii. Taking steps to protect and safeguard people from abuse, neglect or harm (*pages 63-65*);
 - iv. Encouraging and supporting people to learn, develop and participate in society (*pages 67-70*);
 - v. Supporting people to safely develop and maintain healthy domestic, family and personal relationships (*pages 71-73*);
 - 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 75-77*);
- How we do what we do (*pages 78-79*)
 - i. Our workforce and how we support their professional roles (*pages 80-82*);
 - ii. Our financial resources and how we plan for the future (*pages 83-84*)

Financial Implications

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.

Legal Implications

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.

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 such as the future challenges and priorities for 2023-24 for inclusion within the Committee's work programme.

DAVINA FIORE

Director of Governance and Legal Services

12 Sep 2023