



SWYDDFA CYMORTH Y CABINET CABINET SUPPORT OFFICE

Fy Nghyf / My Ref: CE:0041782

Dyddiad / Date: 07 September 2023

Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee Members
Children & Young People Committee Members
County Hall
Atlantic Wharf
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

Dear Councillors,

Re: Local Authority Social Services Annual Report – Cllr Lister

Firstly, my sincere apologies for not being able to join the joint-scrutiny of the Local Authority Social Services Annual Report (LASSAR) for 2022-23.

I would like to begin by extending my thanks to Council staff and partners who continue to work tirelessly to deliver the services highlighted in this report. I continue to be impressed by their dedication, patience, and professionalism, as well as their commitment to delivering better outcomes for the people in our city who need our help the most.

This report covers the achievements of social care services in Cardiff in what was yet another difficult year. The need to meet and manage the ongoing high level of demand for services whilst striving to deliver a balanced budget and achieve value for money is increasingly challenging. We are taking this opportunity to review how services are provided and consider the need for radical reform to meet demand and future proof social care services in Cardiff. Maintaining the day-to-day business whilst doing so means that we are not able to implement some of our development work as quickly as we would like, but good progress is being made – and this is set out in the report.

The report also identifies our overarching priorities for 2023/24 – reflecting our new Striving for Excellence in Children’s Services Strategy for 2023-26. The strategy was informed by the feedback we received from our 2021/22 annual report. More detailed information about how we will implement our key projects going forward is included in the Directorate Delivery Plans that are available at Appendices 3 and 4.

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GWEITHIO DROS GAERDYDD, GWEITHIO DROSOCH CHI

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg, Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog. Byddwn yn cyfathrebu â chi yn ôl eich dewis, dim ond i chi roi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh, English or bilingually. We will ensure that we communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay.



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This report is being presented alongside some other key reports – the Social Services Annual Feedback Report 2022/23 and the Council's Corporate Safeguarding Annual Report for 2022/23. These are available at Appendices 5 and 6 respectively.

The Social Services Annual Feedback Report summarises the compliments, complaints and representations received by Children's and Adult Services during the year. It identifies the key themes arising from this feedback, and what we are doing in response – to learn the lessons and inform service improvement.

The Corporate Safeguarding Annual Report provides an update on the work undertaken in relation to corporate arrangements for safeguarding across the Council during 2022/23. It also sets out the priorities for the year ahead and our plans to enhance our partnership approach with wider non-statutory partners to strengthen safeguarding mechanisms in our communities as well as strengthening the arrangements between the Corporate Safeguarding Board and the Regional Safeguarding Board.

In relation to Children's Services, our primary focus continues to be shifting the balance of care in three key areas – place, people and practice. To this end we have made good progress with embedding the Interventions Hub, developing a detailed Workforce Action Plan and undertaking focused work with partners to raise awareness of the Safeguarding Adolescents From Exploitation (SAFE) approach to exploitation and the interventions that are available. I would also like to again note the excellent progress that was seen during a follow up inspection of the Youth Justice Service that resulted in the priority status being removed.

The report sets out our plans for the future and how we will develop our services to address the key challenges that we are facing.

Addressing these challenges can only be achieved by working collectively across the Council and with third-sector organisations, and I'd like to put on record my thanks to those in different Directorates and in charities across Cardiff, who are supporting us to deliver a Child Friendly City.

Finally, I would like to encourage Members of the Committee to use whatever opportunities they can to promote the great work of staff across Social Services, particularly in public and on social media. Despite the challenging work they undertake and the negative media profile the profession receives, we continue to have a dedicated, passionate and growing workforce who deserve our thanks and celebration.

I will of course respond to any questions the Committee have, following the meeting.

With best wishes,



Y Cynghorydd / Councillor Ash Lister
Yr Aelod Cabinet dros Wasanaethau Cymdeithasol (Gwasanaethau Plant)
Cabinet Member for Social Services (Children's Services)