



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

17TH OCTOBER 2019

DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

REPORT OF COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDERS, COUNCILLOR HOPKINS AND COUNCILLOR LEYSHON

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 requires that the Director of Social Services publishes an Annual Report about the exercise of the Local Authority's social services function.
- 1.2 The first draft of the Annual Report was presented to Cabinet in July this year and has subsequently been taken to both the relevant Scrutiny committees, and circulated to partners etc for consultation and comment.
- 1.3 As a result of this consultation some minor amendments have been made to the report and a final version is now presented to Cabinet for formal approval prior to publication.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 2.1 Approve the Rhondda Cynon Taf Director of Social Services Annual Report (Appendix 1) for publication.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To enable the Director of Social Services to discharge statutory duties in relation to publishing an Annual Report on the delivery, performance, risks and planned improvements of the Social Services function of the Council.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 includes in Part 8 a Code of Practice with regards to the role of the Director of Social Services.
- 4.2 This replaces Statutory Guidance issued in June 2009 regarding the Duties and Accountabilities of Directors of Social Services in Wales and includes an ongoing requirement for the Director of Social Services to publish an Annual Report.
- 4.3 The new code of Practice states that the Director of Social Services must prepare and publish an annual report about the exercise of the Local Authority's social services functions and that this annual report must be published as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of a financial year.
- 4.4 The annual report must evaluate the performance of the Local Authority in relation to the delivery of its social services functions in respect of that year and include lessons learned. It must also set out objectives in relation to promoting the wellbeing of people who need care and support, and carers who need support, for the forthcoming year.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report makes no change to operational service delivery.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The draft Director of Social Services Annual Report was presented for Scrutiny to the Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny Committee and to the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny committee.
- 6.2 The draft Director of Social Services Annual Report has been amended as necessary in response to comments received.
- 6.3 Overall, feedback was positive and the draft report has required limited amendments.
- 6.4 A record of all comments received will be kept and is available on request.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 7.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

8.1 This report makes no change to operational service delivery.

9. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

9.1 The Director's report provides a view on the delivery of Social Services during 2018/19 and complements the Council's Corporate priorities.

10. CONCLUSION

10.1 All comments received were considered by the Director of Social Services and staff working on the Director of Social Services Annual Report and appropriate changes made.

10.2 Feedback was constructive and positive.

10.3 Detailed action plans to support delivery of the Director of Social Services Annual Report are included within the Service delivery Plans of the individual Services which form the Community & Children's Services Group.

10.4 In summary I am pleased to report that the performance of Social Services in RCT continues to be good despite the level of financial pressure experienced. However, Cabinet will be aware that there are still areas that need further improvement and compared to other Councils we still support more adults in institutional settings rather than in their own home, and we still have a comparatively larger number of children who are 'looked after' by the Council rather than living with their families. Whilst there are a number of factors contributing to this situation, working with partners to strengthen community based support services to address these continues to be a key priority.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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Background Papers:

Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 Part 8 Code of Practice on the Role of the Director of Social Services (Social Services Functions)

<http://gov.wales/docs/dhss/publications/160322part8en.pdf>

The Local Authority Annual Social Services Reports Guidance (ADSS)

https://socialcare.wales/cms_assets/hub-downloads/The_Local_Authority_Annual_Social_Services_Reports_Guidance.pdf

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