

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021/22**

**HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

19TH JULY 2021

**REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR,
COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Agenda Item No.
CARE INSPECTORATE WALES (CIW) - ASSURANCE CHECK 2021

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the report is to share with Members the finding letter from Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) in respect of their recent assurance check of the Council's Social Services.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

2.1 Note the contents of the finding letter from CIW at Appendix I and scrutinise its contents.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 To provide assurance to Members regarding how well the Council's social services helps and supports adults and children with a focus on safety and well-being following the recent assurance check undertaken by CIW.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 In March 2020 CIW suspended its routine programme of inspections in response to the Covid-19 pandemic to enable local authorities to focus their attention on responding to the challenging circumstances of the pandemic. A revised programme of assurance checks recommenced in September 2020.

4.2 The Council has received a summary of the findings of the assurance check undertaken on 24th to 28th May 2021 and this is reproduced for Member's attention at Appendix I.

- 4.3 The assurance check considered safety and well-being of people who use or may need to use services, the safety of services they access and the safety and well-being of people who work in services. Key lines of enquiry were focused on the four principles of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014:
- People - Voice and Control,
 - Prevention,
 - Well-being,
 - Partnerships and Integration.
- 4.4 The methodology is described in the CIW letter and included the review of documentation supplied; CIW inspectors spoke to people receiving care and support; a review of 36 case files; nine cases tracking interviews with practitioners; surveys and interviews with practitioners, senior managers and Cabinet Members.
- 4.5 The findings letter identified strengths and areas for improvement that will be incorporated into the Council's improvement plans and our progress monitored.
- 4.6 Members will be pleased to see that the findings letter identified many strengths across both Adult and Children's Services. The findings letter provides a high level of assurance that the Council continued to meet its statutory duties in respect of social services throughout the pandemic and provided high quality services to adults and children with a focus of safety and well-being.
- 4.7 The areas for improvement identified by CIW concern:
- Recruitment & retention of a stable workforce
 - Closely monitor the reduction of waiting lists
 - Placement sufficiency in Children Services
- 4.8 These areas for improvement are all priorities identified by the Council and are reflected in our Delivery Plans for 2021/22.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no implications associated with this report.

6. CONSULTATION/INVOLVEMENT

- 6.1 There are no consultation implication arising from this report.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 7.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 8.1 CIW are the independent regulator of social care and childcare in Wales. CIW register, inspect and take action to improve the quality and safety of services for the well-being of the people of Wales.
- 8.2 The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 gives CIW powers to review the way in which local authorities discharge their social services functions.
- 8.3 The Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016 gives CIW powers to register and/or inspect providers of social care services in Wales.

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

- 9.1 It is critically important that CIW and elected members are assured that the Council's social services are meeting their statutory duties and in doing so contributing towards the Council's corporate priorities and well-being goals.

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 The CIW assurance check provides the Council with a high level of assurance regarding how well the Council is discharging its statutory duties in respect of social services and providing help and support to adults and children to protect safety and promote well-being. This has been achieved during the extremely challenging circumstances of the pandemic and reflects the commitment, hard work and resilience of our workforce.
- 10.2 In addition to identifying many strengths across both Adult and Children's Services, as expected, a few areas for improvement have been identified which are prioritised through our Delivery Plans and action improvement plans.