

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

**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

21ST JULY 2021

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

Agenda Item No.
DRAFT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 The 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.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 The purpose of this report is to present the first draft of this revised reporting framework for Scrutiny Members' consideration prior to its content being made available for public consultation.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Acknowledge the draft Rhondda Cynon Taf Director of Social Services Annual Report (Appendix 1) and scrutinise its contents.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To meet the statutory requirements on the Director of Social Services and ensure the report is circulated for public consultation.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Director of Social Services must prepare and publish an Annual Report about the exercise of the Local Authority's Social Services functions. This annual report must be published as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of a financial year and address the following requirements:

- It 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 should be presented in such a way as to set out how the Local Authority has achieved the six quality standards in relation to well-being outcomes as described in the *code of practice in relation to measuring social services performance*, issued under section 145 of the Act.
- It must include details of the extent to which the authority has acted in accordance with relevant requirements for assessing and meeting needs (Part 3 and 4 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014)
- It must set out how the Local Authority has exercised relevant requirements contained in the code of practice so as to provide:
 - a) Assurances in terms of structural arrangements within the Local Authority that enable good governance and strong accountability.
 - b) Assurances in relation to effective partnership working via Partnership Boards.
 - c) Assurances in relation to safeguarding arrangements.
 - d) Information in relation to the performance of the handling and investigation of complaints and representations.
 - e) A response to any inspections undertaken in relation to social services functions.

- 4.2 The Welsh Government is committed to the delivery of high-quality health, social services and social care services that are centred on users' needs. *More than just words* is its strategic framework to realise this aim.

- 4.3 Directors of Social Services are, therefore, required to provide an update on Welsh language provision and their implementation of *More than just words* as part of the annual report.

- 4.4 It is important that the views of service users in relation to the way the Local Authority has discharged its social services functions are included in the annual report. People, including children, who have experience of

using care and support services, the parents of children who have care and support needs, and carers in the local authority area must be engaged in the process of producing an annual report and the annual report must set out how the Local Authority has engaged with people in its production.

4.5 Annual reports are a way for local authorities to demonstrate accountability to citizens and should, therefore, be accessible to people, including service users. The Director of Social Services should, therefore, ensure that annual reports are not overly long and are written in a clear and concise way.

4.6 To ensure effective accountability, the annual report must be presented to the Council by the Director of Social Services, a copy of the published annual report sent to Welsh Ministers and copies made available on the local authority website.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no implications associated with this report.

6. CONSULTATION/INVOLVEMENT

6.1 This draft report will be subjected to a formal consultation the results of which will be considered in finalising 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 The Annual Director's report is required under Part 8 of The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

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

9.1 The Annual Director's Report publishes the delivery, performance, risks and planned improvements of the Social Services function in the Council. As such it provides the public with a summary of the Directorates performance in meeting the corporate priorities for its Social Services.

10. CONCLUSION

10.1 The Director of Social Services Annual Report 2020/21 sets out how the Council's Social Services performed last year, highlighting the direction and priorities we have set for the year ahead.