



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

17TH OCTOBER 2022

PRE-SCRUTINY – DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND COMMUNICATION

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide the feedback and comments of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee following its pre scrutiny of the Director of Social Services Annual Report 2021/22 at its meeting on the 5th October 2022.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note the comments and observations of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee; and
- 2.2 Subject to any further comment by Cabinet Members, endorse the recommendations outlined within the Director of Social Services Annual Report 2021/22 as attached to the report.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The need for Members to be aware of the comments and observations of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee prior to their consideration of the Council's Director of Social Services Annual Report, for the year 2021/22.

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 a number requirements.

- 4.2 The report provides a summary of progress against priorities for the year, together with an overview of the continued response to the pandemic and service priorities for 2022/23.
- 4.3 Members of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee were provided with the opportunity to undertake pre scrutiny on the Director of Social Services Annual Report 2021/22 at its meeting on the 5th October 2022.

5. PRE-SCRUTINY OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

- 5.1 The Community Services Scrutiny Committee met on the 5th October 2022, to consider the Director of Social Services Annual Report 2021/22.
- 5.2 Members felt it was important to recognise how much work had been undertaken throughout the service and this was evident in the report and wished to thank staff for their hard work and commitment to the service.
- 5.3 A Member recognised that many of the services were only known about, if people had access to them, therefore, felt that more could be done to raise awareness and promote access to available services which in turn could relieve pressure on other services if enhanced signposting was in place.
- 5.4 A Member acknowledged that the report highlighted the ongoing effects of the pandemic but was concerned about the financial impact the cost-of-living crises was having on families, which could lead to a higher demand for services and asked for updated figures to be reported back to the Committee in 6 months' time.
- 5.5 A Member noted the reduction in the rate of children becoming looked after but acknowledged that the service was yet to see the full impact the pandemic has had on vulnerable families, this together with the financial impact of the UK cost of living crises members remained concerned at how this would impact on the current figures and asked officers to keep the Committee informed of any significant changes in the figures.
- 5.6 A Member felt it was important, both in terms of management of resources and in terms of service users, for the need to accelerate the integration of adult social care and health care and demonstrate how this would take place and what the likelihood of success would be.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed because the contents of the report are for information purposes only.

7. CONSULTATION/INVOLVEMENT

- 7.1 The report contained within Appendix A has been presented to Scrutiny for pre scrutiny prior to consideration by Cabinet.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

8.1 Any financial implications are outlined within Appendix A of the report.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

9.1 The Annual Director's report is required under Part 8 of The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

10. LINKS TO THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES

10.1 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.

11. CONCLUSION

11.1 It is recognised that scrutiny is a vital component of good governance and improves Councils' decision making, service provision and cost effectiveness.

11.2 The undertaking of pre-scrutiny by the Community Services Scrutiny Committee in this area will strength accountability and assist Cabinet Members in taking any future decisions on these matters.

Other Information:-

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Community Services Scrutiny Committee

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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Background Papers

None.