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| Meeting of: | Cabinet |
| Date of Meeting: | **Monday, 13 September 2021** |
| Relevant Scrutiny Committee: | Healthy Living and Social Care |
| Report Title: | Annual Report of the Director of Social Services 2020-2021 – Final Version |
| Purpose of Report: | To ensure that Cabinet agree the future priorities for the Directorate of Social Services |
| Report Owner: | Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health |
| Responsible Officer: | Director of Social Services |
| Elected Member and Officer Consultation: | Social Services Senior Management Team  Health Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee |
| Policy Framework: | This is a matter for Executive decision |
| Executive Summary:   * A Challenge Version of the Director’s report was considered by Scrutiny Committee in July. Committee members provided positive feedback and welcomed the new presentation of the report. * A finalised version following feedback from partners is being presented to Cabinet for approval. * The report contains a number of priorities which the Director of Social Services has determined. These have been set in the context of the pandemic and significant changes in demand. Cabinet are asked to agree these improvement priorities. | |

# Recommendations

1. That Cabinet considers the content of this report.
2. Approves the Director’s Annual Report for 2020-2021 – [https://sway.office.com/GOBm0HRsTESWUX5t?ref=Link](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsway.office.com%2FGOBm0HRsTESWUX5t%3Fref%3DLink&data=04%7C01%7CJWinter%40valeofglamorgan.gov.uk%7C590667a70f714cea576708d95b34fdd1%7Ce399d3bb38ed469691cf79851dbf55ec%7C0%7C0%7C637641105411198907%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=NFklvyBjkeBHDUGKPCGy8xHxJzUQTRlO5xBHgqaMVNI%3D&reserved=0)
3. Agrees the improvement priorities for Social Services as set out in the Director’s Annual Report for 2020-2021.

# Reasons for Recommendations

1. To ensure that the Director’s Annual Report is considered by elected members.
2. To ensure that the Director’s Annual Report for 2020-2021 has the approval and agreement of Cabinet.
3. To ensure that the priorities as set out by the Director of Social Services are approved by Cabinet.

# Background

* 1. As part of the statutory duties, the Director of Social Services is required by the Welsh Government to produce an annual report on the effectiveness of social care services in the Vale of Glamorgan and on our plans for improvement. This gives the Director an opportunity to provide people in the Vale of Glamorgan with a rounded picture of social services - based on evidence drawn from a wide range of sources such as what users and carers say, key performance indicators, and measurements of progress against the overall goals of the Council.
  2. The report is written for a wide range of people, including service users and carers but also Elected Members, the Council's own staff, and the range of partners and providers who help us deliver our services. It is used by the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) as evidence and to guide their inspection programme in the Vale of Glamorgan.
  3. The report reflects on progress over the last financial year.
  4. The Corporate Plan sets out our vision for the next four years by identifying priorities that are aligned to well-being outcomes and objectives. In planning how we will deliver services over the coming years, our annual Service Plans 2019-20 outline our service specific contributions to these priorities. The corporate Service Planning process has been used to set out our improvement agenda and to inform the development of the priorities for 2020-21 in the Director's Annual Report.

# Key Issues for Consideration

* 1. This is an important report for the people of the Vale of Glamorgan, members of the Council and our partners, both statutory and in other sectors. It outlines the current context within which social services are operating and details proposed priorities for improvement.
  2. The final report has been prepared following the circulation of a challenge version. This has allowed key stakeholders opportunities to comment and make observations before the report is finalised, ensuring that it accurately reflects the position of social services.
  3. As part of the challenge process, the challenge version of the report was presented to Scrutiny Committee to provide Elected Members with an opportunity to contribute their views. This is regarded as a key milestone in finalising the report because of the crucial role which the Committee has in providing consistent oversight and monitoring of social services.
  4. The challenge version was amended following consideration at Scrutiny Committee and the feedback from partners and stakeholders. This year, no substantive changes have been made as a result of the feedback received.
  5. The final report will be made available via the Council's website.

# How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

* 1. The challenge version of the report was a consultation document and was sent for consideration to a wide range of partners. A feedback pro forma was provided which was returned via email. The comments received were evaluated and, where appropriate, changes to the report were made. There are no matters in the report which relate to an individual ward.
  2. The need to ensure that services are sustainable in the longer-term is a key element in the priority outcomes set out in the annual report. This is consistent with the direction set by Welsh Government for delivering sustainable social services through greater emphasis on prevention and people accepting more responsibility for tackling factors which can increase demand for social care and health services.

# Resources and Legal Considerations

**Financial**

* 1. The report is set within the context of:
* increasing demand for help and support;
* managing the impact of the UK Government’s previous austerity measures on public sector finances; and
* efforts to focus on more of our work on supporting people to remain as independent as possible.
  1. The priority objectives contained in the reports will be delivered within the financial constraints set by the Social Services Budget Programme, which is approved by Cabinet and reported regularly.

**Employment**

* 1. There are no employment issues as a result of this report.

**Legal (Including Equalities)**

* 1. The former reporting requirements for Directors of Social Services in part 6 of the “Statutory Guidance on the Role and Accountabilities of the Director of Social Services” (Welsh Government June 2009) have been replaced as a consequence of both the Social Services and Well-Being Act 2014, and the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016.
  2. The requirements for the social services report are scattered under a number of pieces of legislation and codes. In purely headline terms the requirements are that every local authority must produce an annual report on the discharge of its social services functions and the report must include:
* An evaluation of the performance in delivering social services functions for the past year including lessons learned (Part 8 Code on the role of the Director);
* How the local authority has achieved the six quality standards for well-being outcomes (set out in the code on measuring performance);
* Qualitative and quantitative data relating to the achievement of well-being outcomes (also set out in the code on measuring performance);
* The extent to which the local authority has met requirements under Parts 3 and 4 of the SSWB Act as set out in separate codes covering assessing needs and meeting needs;
* Objectives for promoting the well-being of people needing care and support and carers needing support for the following year including those identified by population needs assessments under section 14 of the SSWB Act;
* Assurances concerning: structural arrangements enabling good governance and strong accountability, effective partnership working via Partnership Boards and safeguarding arrangements;
* The local authority’s performance in handling and investigating complaints responses to any inspections of its social services functions;
* An update on Welsh language provision how the local authority has engaged people (including children) in the production of the report.

# Background Papers

The Local Authority Annual Social Services Reports Guidance:

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

Report to Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee – 6th July 2021.