

Report To: Performance Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 26th February 2015

Lead Member/Officer: Lead Member for Social Care/
Director of Social Services

Report Author: Principal Manager: Business Support

Title: Update on challenges highlighted in Director of Social Services Annual Performance Report 2013-14

1. What is the report about?

This report provides an update on the challenges identified in the Director of Social Services Annual Performance Report for 2013-14, and highlights the progress we have made in addressing those challenges during 2014-15.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To enable Members to scrutinise the performance of Social Services to see whether sufficient progress is being made to address the identified challenges.

3. What are the Recommendations?

It is recommended that Members discuss the report and highlight any areas where additional scrutiny is required.

4. Report details.

Each year, the Director of Social Services is required to publish an annual report of performance for the financial year that has just ended. The latest annual report (for 2013-14) was published at the end of June 2014.

In that report, a number of specific challenges were identified that we would need to focus on during 2014/15. These challenges are highlighted below, and details of how we are responding to these challenges are attached at Appendix I. A more detailed analysis of our response to these challenges will be presented in the Annual Performance Report for 2014/15.

- A. We need to ensure all carers are offered a review or assessment of their needs
- B. We need to continue to increase the use of Direct Payments and Individual Service Funds to give people more freedom to choose the services that meet their assessed needs and who provides them
- C. We need to continue improving attendance at work

- D. We need to continue to increase the completion of statutory visits to looked after children within timescales
- E. We need to continue to improve educational and health outcomes for looked after children
- F. Responding to the challenges raised by the Supreme Court deprivation of liberty ruling from March 2014
- G. Maintaining stable placements for children and young people, and minimising the number of moves they experience (whilst recognising that this is not always possible).

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

The Director of Social Services Annual Report specifically relates to our contribution to the delivery of the following two corporate priorities:

- Vulnerable people are protected and are able to live as independently as possible; and
- Modernising the council to deliver efficiencies and improve services for our customers.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

The work necessary to address the challenges identified in the Director of Social Services Annual Report is being delivered within existing budgets. There are no specific implications for other services.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.

This report does not require an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA). It provides an update on social services performance during 2014/15, and the report itself has no potential impact on people sharing protected characteristics.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

No consultation has been necessary to produce this report, except for discussions with the two services in question.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The cost of addressing the issues in report must be contained within existing resources.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

There is a detailed risk register for Adult & Business Service and for Children & Family Services. As this is a report about Social Services in Denbighshire, any risks associated with the issues covered by this report (and actions to mitigate and manage them) are captured in the service risk registers.

11. Power to make the Decision

Statutory Guidance on the Role and Accountabilities of the Director of Social Services issued under Section 7 of Local Authority Social Services Act 1970.

Article 6.3.4(b) sets out scrutiny's powers with respect to performance monitoring and policy objectives.

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