

**Report to:** Performance Scrutiny Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 11 June 2015

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

**Report Author:** Principal Manager: Business Support

**Title:** Director of Social Services Annual Report: 2014/15

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**1. What is the report about?**

- 1.1. Every Director of Social Services in Wales is required to produce an annual report which summarises their view of the effectiveness of the authority's social care services and priorities for improvement.
- 1.2. A draft annual report for 2014/15 is attached at Appendix I. The report is intended to provide the public with an honest picture of services in Denbighshire and to demonstrate a clear understanding of the strengths and challenges faced.

**2. What is the reason for making this report?**

- 2.1. To enable Members to scrutinise the draft report prior to it being submitted to the CSSIW by the end of June 2015.

**3. What are the Recommendations?**

- 3.1. It is recommended that Members consider whether:
  - the report provides a clear account of performance in 2014/15;
  - the report raises any performance issues/concerns that require further scrutiny.

**4. Report details.**

- 4.1. Overall, the report shows that we continued to provide high quality social services during 2014/15, and that we achieved some excellent performance in areas that are important to our communities. We also continued to make real progress with our aim to transform social services in response to the challenges posed by the financial position and the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.
- 4.2. Clearly, not everything went as well as we had planned, and the report identifies a number of areas where improvements could still be made. However, we have plans in place to address these issues, as highlighted in the report.

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

5.1. The report specifically relates to our contribution to delivery on 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?**

6.1. The production and publication of the report itself does not cost anything (except for officer time), and does not impact on other services. The future plans and actions identified for social services within the report will be delivered within existing budgets. However, some of the themes covered by the report, e.g. supporting independence and enhancing wellbeing, are corporate agendas rather than the responsibility of social services alone. For the council as a whole, this will mean ensuring that all our services, for example housing, highways, planning, environmental services and leisure, are designed to optimise independence.

## **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.**

7.1. The report does not require an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA). The report provides a retrospective evaluation of social services performance during 2014/15, and the publication of the report itself has no potential impact on people sharing protected characteristics. However, in terms of future plans mentioned within the report, an EqIA will be required for any decisions/change that will have an impact on people sharing protected characteristics. These will be undertaken for each individual project as and when required.

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

8.1. We have drawn on feedback from service users and carers about our services as part of our existing quality assurance system.

8.2. It is proposed that the draft report will be circulated to partners (e.g. health, 3<sup>rd</sup> sector) for comment, and also to colleagues in Flintshire as part of a peer review arrangement in which we have agreed to act as a “critical friend” in relation to reviewing each other’s draft reports.

## **9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

9.1. The cost implications of any themes emerging in the report must be considered within the context of the council's wider budget position.

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

- 10.1. 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**

- 11.1. Statutory Guidance on the Role and Accountabilities of the Director of Social Services issued under Section 7 of Local Authority Social Services Act 1970.
- 11.2. Article 6.3.4(b) sets out scrutiny's powers with respect to performance monitoring and policy objectives.

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