

**Report to:** Partnerships Scrutiny Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 22 June 2017

**Lead Member / Officer:** Lead Member for Well-being and Independence and Lead Member for Children and Young People/Corporate Director: Communities

**Report Author:** Principal Manager: Support Services

**Title:** Director of Social Services Annual Report 2016-2017

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

- 1.1 Every Statutory 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 2016-2017 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 annual report prior to it being submitted to the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW)

## **3. What are the Recommendations?**

- 3.1 That Members consider whether the report provides a clear account of performance in 2016-2017;
- 3.2 That Members consider whether the report raises any performance issues/concerns that require further scrutiny.

## **4. Report details**

- 4.1 Overall, the report shows that Denbighshire County Council continues to provide good quality social services for children, adults and carers, and that we achieved some excellent performance in areas that are important to our communities. We also continue our transformation of social services in response to the challenges posed by reducing public sector funding at a time of increasing cost pressures, and the demands of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016.
- 4.2 However, the report does identify a number of areas where we aim to further improve performance and the plans we have in place to address these issues.

## **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 Well-being Impact Assessment?**

- 7.1 The annual report itself does not require a Well-being Impact Assessment because it provides a retrospective evaluation of performance during 2016-2017, and the publication of the report has no potential impact on future generations. However, Well-being Impact Assessments will be undertaken in relation to any future plans or development of services which have been mentioned within this annual report, as and when required.

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

- 8.1 Feedback from service users and carers about our services forms part of our existing quality assurance system and as such has contributed considerably to the development of this report.
- 8.2 As with usual practice, the draft report will be circulated to partners (e.g. health, 3rd sector) for comment, prior to publication.

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

- 9.1 The cost implications of any emerging issues in the annual 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 both Community Support Services and for Education & Children's 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 (including the requirement to publish an annual report) is issued within the Code of Practice on the Role of the Director of Social Services under Part 8 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.
- 11.2 Section 7.4.2(b) of the Council's Constitution sets out scrutiny's powers with respect to performance monitoring and policy objectives.

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