

Report to	Performance Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting	14th July 2022
Lead Member / Officer	Councillors Elen Heaton & Gill German / Nicola Stubbins / Ann Lloyd / Rhian Morrle
Report author	Ann Lloyd
Title	Director of Social Services Annual Report 2021 - 22

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. The draft annual report for 2021 – 2022 is attached at Appendix 1. 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 Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW).

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1. That Members consider whether the report provides a clear account of performance in 2021 - 2022
- 3.2. That Members consider whether the report raises any performance issues / concerns that require further scrutiny

4. Report details

- 4.1. Overall our performance is comparable with the previous years, with some improvements in areas such as the number of children returned home from care and the number of assessments for children completed within statutory timescales. This is at a time where we are seeing significant recruitment and retention issues following the Covid outbreak and complexity of need for those entering statutory services is increasing.
- 4.2. Throughout this year, priority has been maintaining capacity and resource to deliver our statutory services which has limited our ability to develop and progress as much as we would have liked. However, we have built on innovative and creative practice that was developed during the Covid outbreak and lockdown.
- 4.3. During the year we made good progress in supporting and improving services for young carers, as well as developing a Carer's Charter in conjunction with our Carers' Strategy Group. Although there is more work to be done in identifying informal carers and this work will be progressed through Denbighshire's State of Caring Action Plan.
- 4.4. Whilst the completion of the Bwthyn y Ddôl centre has been delayed, the multi-disciplinary team are now established and are working with children and young people on the edge of care.
- 4.5. Both adult and children's social services are developing and enhancing their Edge of Care Teams to provide early intervention and prevention to those individuals and families who may otherwise need support from statutory services.
- 4.6. Moving into 2022 – 2023 we will:
 - Embed the work of the Independent Living Advisers to support individuals and families to have their care and support provided through a direct payment which will increase the choice and control of their care and support needs.
 - Continue to support the development of Micro –Enterprises through our partnership with Community Catalysts to enhance opportunities for

small care and support enterprises across the county but particularly in the rural areas.

- Prepare for the implementation of the Liberty Protection Safeguards that will replace the current Deprivation of Liberty Standards
- Develop provision that will provide accommodation with ongoing intensive person-centred support for Looked After Children with the highest complexity of need.

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

5.1. The report specifically relates to our contribution to delivery on the following Corporate priorities:

- Everyone is supported to live in homes that meet their needs
- The Council works with people and communities to build independence and resilience.

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

6.1. The development and publication of the annual reports does not cost anything other than officer time, and does not impact on other services. The future plans and actions identified for Community Support Services and Education & Children's Services within the report will be delivered within existing budgets, or through partnership funding, such as Regional Integration Fund (RIF).

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

7.1. The annual report does not require a Well-being Impact Assessment because it provides a retrospective evaluation of performance 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 in these annual reports, 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 form part of our existing quality assurance process and as such has contributed considerably to the development of the annual report.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1. The cost implications of any emerging issues in the annual reports must be considered within the context of the council's wider budget position and Medium Term Financial Plan.

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 Education and Children's Services. As this reports about Social Services in Denbighshire, any risks associated with the issues covered in 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 21 of the Local Government Act 2000

11.3. Section 7.4.2(b) of the Council's Constitution sets out Scrutiny's powers in relation to performance monitoring and policy objectives.