

Committee: **People Scrutiny Committee**  
Date of meeting: **19<sup>th</sup> December 2023**  
Report Subject: **Annual Report of the Director of Social Services 2023/2024 (Quarters 1 and 2).**  
Portfolio Holder: **Cllr Haydn Trollope, Cabinet Member for People and Social Services**  
Report Submitted by: **Tanya Evans, Interim Corporate Director of Social Services**

| Reporting Pathway               |                           |                          |                              |                               |                           |          |         |                      |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|----------|---------|----------------------|
| Directorate Management Officers | Corporate Leadership Team | Portfolio Holder / Chair | Governance & Audit Committee | Democratic Services Committee | People Scrutiny Committee | Cabinet  | Council | Other (please state) |
|                                 | 23.11.23                  | 05.12.23                 |                              |                               | 19.12.23                  | 10.01.24 |         |                      |

**1. Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of the report is to present the Annual Report of the Director of Social Services, covering the quarter 1 and 2 period (April to September 2023) attached at Appendix 1.

**2. Scope and Background**

2.1 The performance of the department is monitored throughout the financial year from April to March, with six monthly reports presented to the relevant Scrutiny Committee. At the end of the year a comprehensive self-evaluation of performance is undertaken to inform the Statutory Annual Report of the Director of Social Services.

2.2 The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 places a statutory duty on all local authorities to produce an annual report on the discharge of its social services functions.

**3. Options for Recommendation**

**3.1 Option 1**

Members are asked to consider the detail contained in the Annual Report of the Director of Social Services 2023/2024 (quarters 1 and 2) and contribute to the continuous assessment of effectiveness by making appropriate comments and or recommendations for amendment to the report before consideration at Cabinet.

**3.2 Option 2**

Accept the report as provided.

**4. Evidence of how this topic support the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**

It is a statutory responsibility of the Director of Social Services to assess the effectiveness of the delivery of Social Services and produce an Annual Report. The Annual Report contributes to and forms part of the Annual Council Reporting Framework (ACRF).

## 5. **Implications Against Each Option**

### 5.1 ***Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)***

The Director's Report includes budgetary information and identifies the pressures and budgetary implications for 2023/2024.

### 5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

Social Services maintain a directorate risk register which is aligned to both service level and corporate risk. The risk register is reviewed as part of the business planning process and included within the performance reporting of the Director of Social Services.

### 5.3 **Legal**

There is a statutory requirement, as part of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2015 for the Director of Social Services to produce an annual report following strict guidelines on content.

### 5.4 **Human Resources**

There are no staffing implications related in this report.

## 6. **Supporting Evidence**

### 6.1 **Performance Information and Data**

Detail is provided within the Director's Annual Report 2023/2024 (quarters 1 and 2)

### 6.2 ***Expected outcome for the public***

The key theme of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 is to promote the well-being of people who need care and support. Within the annual report it is highlighted where the Directorate has worked closely with the public to improve service delivery and user outcomes. Reporting provides the public with the opportunity to view progress of the Directorate and ensure accountability.

### 6.3 ***Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)***

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 looks to build and strengthen on existing arrangements by involving service users, carers and other key partners where possible in helping shape and influence future design of services.

### 6.4 ***Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)***

The Annual report enables the department to plan for the future as spend, risk and performance is continuously reported on and provides a baseline of where the department is currently and where it needs to be in the future.

### 6.5 ***Preventative focus***

The work undertaken by the department looks to promote a preventative approach to practice through early identification and intervention. Having an active rather than re active approach to service planning can also help with planning resources and not spending as much on services in the future.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

Social Services work collaboratively across boundaries to benefit citizens requiring health and social care services across Gwent.

6.7 ***Integration (across service areas)***

The purpose of the SSWBA is to foster integration between Health and Social Services. The report enables the department to plan for the future as spend, risk and performance is continuously reported on and provides a baseline of where it needs to be in the future to support a sustainable and viable service.

6.8 ***Decarbonisation and Reducing Carbon Emissions***

The workforce who delivers the functions of the SSWBA have adopted the agile working policy of the council which will have a positive impact on car emissions as staff are now able to work from home to undertake paperwork and do not have to travel to the office.

6.9a ***Socio Economic Duty Impact Assessment***

All service provision and functions that sit under social services are subject to socio economic disadvantages for example, low income, material and area deprivation. All programmes work towards addressing these disadvantages.

6.9b ***Equality Impact Assessment***

The overarching vision is to support the needs of the most vulnerable children and adults in our communities through a range of early intervention, prevention and support mechanisms. With the aim of building resilient individuals, resilient families and resilient communities.

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 The Annual Report for 2023/2024 (quarters 1 and 2) will be monitored via six monthly monitoring reports to the Social Services Scrutiny Committee.

**Background Documents /Electronic Links**

Appendix 1 – Report of the Director of Social Services