

FULL COUNCIL - INFORMATION REPORT

Date Written	21st August 2020
Report Author	Lisa Curtis-Jones
Service Area	Social Services
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	7 th October 2020

To: Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen

Annual Report on Social Services 2019-2020

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report is to provide information in respect of the Social Services Annual Report for 2019-2020.
- 1.2 In April 2016 we saw the implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. This was a significant piece of legislation designed to change the relationship between the Local Authority, its partner organisations and the public. As part of the Act, a new Performance Framework was introduced. The new framework resulted in a change to the data and information we collect and the way in which we collect it. We will now be required to gather additional information and report on the difference we are making on peoples' lives.
- 1.3 The report would normally be presented to Scrutiny for consultation and discussion. However due to COVID this has not happened this year. Welsh Government advised some months ago that there was no formal expectation to provide the Annual report this year in the same format as previous years.

2.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Local Authority is required to report annually to Welsh Government on performance across its Social Services. However due to COVID 19 Welsh Government advised some months ago that there was no formal expectation to provide the Annual report this year in the same format as previous years.

- 2.2 The Chief Officer (Social Services) in her role as Statutory Director of Social Services is responsible for publishing an annual report on performance and the effectiveness of social care services across the County Borough. The Annual Report on Social Services 2019-2020 has been produced in accordance with the Annual Council Reporting Framework (ACRF) and is intended to provide an overview of our performance for the period April 2019 to March 2020; highlighting what we are doing well, areas for improvement and our priorities for the year ahead (2019-2020).
- 2.3 The report focuses on wellbeing in line with the Social Services and Wellbeing Act (2014). We are required to provide information on the following:
- Working with people to define and co-produce personal wellbeing outcomes that people wish to achieve.
 - Working with people and partners to protect and promote people's physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing.
 - Taking steps to protect and safeguard people from abuse, neglect or harm.
 - Encouraging and supporting people to learn, develop and participate in society.
 - Supporting people to safely develop and maintain healthy domestic, family and personal relationships.
 - Working with and supporting people to achieve greater economic wellbeing have a social life and live in suitable accommodation that meets their needs.

3.0 CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 In previous years we have carried out consultation in respect of the Annual report. The final version will be sent to partners as we have done in previous years, but due to COVID 19 no formal consultation has taken place this year.
- 3.2 This year's report for 2019-2020 sets out our achievements in promoting and improving the wellbeing of those people needing our support. As part of this report, I have set out how we are performing, the developments and challenges we have encountered and our priorities for the next 12 months.
- 3.3 As in previous years, local authorities continue to face significant financial pressures. We have continued to work hard to achieve the savings the Council needs to make whilst doing our best to ensure that the services we provide are not adversely affected.
- 3.4 We want to help people to achieve a higher level of wellbeing. It also means helping people to help themselves, to make better choices and access different types of support. The Council adopted 5 ways of working which are designed to ensure we are in a position to provide sustainable services now and in the future. These principles ensure we take a 'Long Term' view to plan for the future, a focus on 'Prevention', ensuring our services are 'Integrated' with local communities and other partner agencies, that we 'Collaborate' with and 'Involve' the people who use our services and our partners in their development. These 5 ways of working were introduced with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.

- 3.5 We continue to be committed to implementing the 'Five Year Welsh Language Promotional Strategy for Merthyr Tydfil (July 2017)' and actively encourage staff to attend Welsh Language courses which we provide in order that the residents of Merthyr Tydfil have the opportunity to communicate and receive services in Welsh.
- 3.6 The Annual Report highlights in more detail the priorities we set for ourselves last year and what progress we have made against each of these areas.
- 3.7 As outlined in the Annual Report as Chief Officer Social Services, I play a key role in ensuring the successful delivery of the Council's wellbeing objectives. This includes responsibility for the 'Living Well' objective which seeks to ensure 'people are empowered to live independently within their communities, where they are safe and enjoy good physical and mental health'.
- 3.8 Within the Annual Report we have highlighted areas we considered last year and the improvements or changes we have made. We have also outlined key priority areas for 2020-2021 in respect of social care services.
- 3.9 Moving forward the format of this report is likely to change following consultation with Directors and Heads of Service. This work has been delayed due to the current situation with COVID 19.
- 3.10 The Full Annual Report is attached at Appendix 1 for your information.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no specific financial implications identified in this report.

5.0 CONTRIBUTION TO WELLBEING OBJECTIVES

- 5.1 The Annual Report on Social Services for 2019-2020 links with the theme Living Well:
- People are empowered to live independently within their communities, where they are safe and enjoy good physical and mental health

This main objective seeks to prioritise activities which focus on early intervention and prevention. The priority is to deliver services that support people to lead healthy independent lives in a safe environment. We want to motivate and support people to develop positive physical and mental health behaviours, build resilient communities where people live free from harm and have a good quality of life.

6.0 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts	Not Applicable
1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives	3 of 4	0 of 4	1 of 4
2. Sustainable Development Principles - How have you considered the five ways of working: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term • Prevention • Integration • Collaboration • Involvement 	5 of 5	0 of 5	0 of 5
3. Protected Characteristics <i>(including Welsh Language)</i>	4 of 10	0 of 10	6 of 10
4. Biodiversity	0 of 1	0 of 1	1 of 1
<p>Summary: The main positive impacts are working with all ages of the population and improvement in prevention work and working together with partners across adult and children services.</p> <p>No negative impacts have been identified.</p>			

LISA CURTIS JONES
CHIEF OFFICER (SOCIAL SERVICES)

COUNCILLOR CHRIS DAVIES
CABINET MEMBER FOR
SOCIAL SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
Annual Report on Social Services 2019-2020	August 2020	Unit 5, Pentrebach
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		No

Consultation has been undertaken with the Corporate Management Team in respect of each proposal(s) and recommendation(s) set out in this report.