

REPORT TO THE CABINET

Date of Meeting:	23 July 2019
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Dafydd Meurig & Cllr Dilwyn Morgan
Author:	Morwena Edwards, Corporate Director
Contact Telephone Number:	Ext 32468
Title of Item:	Care Inspectorate Wales Annual Letter

1. Background

1.1 In accordance with the Care Inspectorate Wales Code of Practice for review of local authority social services, they are required to write and publish an annual letter on local authorities that:

- provides feedback on the performance review and appraisal work they completed during the year;
- reports on the progress that the local authority has made in implementing recommendations from children and adults' practice inspections and/or reviews;
- outlines their forward work programme.

2 Why the need for a decision

2.1 It is appropriate for the Cabinet to consider the content of the letter in order to have confidence in the performance and direction of our to social services in Gwynedd.

3. The decision sought

3.1 Members are asked to consider and accept this report.

4. The background and relevant considerations

4.1 The letter summarises Gwynedd Council's performance in fulfilling its statutory roles in the field of Social Services. You will be aware that the Children and Supporting Families Department was the subject of a full inspection in June 2018. The findings of this inspection informs the letter, as do the performance evaluation activities of the

Contact:

01286 679729 • 01286 679490

cabinet@gwynedd.llyw.cymru



local authority learning disabilities team, the older people community social work service, and developments at a local authority care home.

4.2 It is worth noting that the Letter is very positive, and we as responsible members, along with the statutory director for social services, welcome this letter.

4.2 Welfare

4.3 The letter notes that the Children and Supporting Families Department has robust arrangements to safeguard children. Nevertheless, the letter notes that the reviews procedure for looked-after children needs to be strengthened. I can confirm that a comprehensive work programme is in place to ensure this. One of the challenges that faces the County and the nation is the adequacy of the placements for looked-after children. The letter confirms this and you will be aware of the Department's performance reports that this matter is being addressed at a local and regional level.

4.4 It is noted that the Adults, Health and Well-being Department is working on a service transformation programme and, as part of this programme, are experimenting with new ways of working to overcome challenges such as that of recruiting care workers and stabilising the home domiciliary care market. As the letter notes, although the Department faces many challenges, there is a clear programme in place.

4.5 The letter notes that they will visit the Safeguarding Adults field during the year. We welcome this.

4.6 People

4.7 Within Social Services in Gwynedd, one of our strengths is our stable, skilled and experienced workforce. The letter clearly notes that our workforce values the ability to work through the medium of Welsh, and that members speak positively of the experience of working in Gwynedd and of the ethos of 'Putting the people of Gwynedd at the centre of everything we do.'

4.8 The Inspectorate notes our success in providing respite care for children and young people with disabilities at our new facility, Hafan y Sêr.

4.8 Prevention

4.9 You will be aware that more preventative working and earlier intervention drives the work programmes of both Departments. Our Improvement Plans within the Council Plan reflects this. The letter confirms that we are heading in the right direction with our transformation arrangements in the Adults, Health and Well-being Department, and will lead to services that will help our communities.

4.10 It is noted that the Children Department has some work to do to further develop Prevention Services, and I can confirm that a comprehensive work programme is in place. This is a priority field for us, and our Supporting Families programme is attempting to move this agenda forward.

4.11 Partnerships

- 4.12 The success of our transformation programmes rely upon strong partnerships across the sector, with health and the third sector. This letter confirms that we have strong collaborative partnerships, and this will help us as we redesign services. Of course, this will lead to better outcomes for the individuals of Gwynedd.
- 4.13 Additionally, the Inspectorate is of the view that the Council has strong leadership and governance arrangements, and notes that the Corporate Parenting Plan is an example of good practice that is ambitious in its aim to develop the best outcomes for our looked-after children.
- 4.14 CIW Performance Review Plan for 2019-20
- 4.15 The thematic programme of inspection for the Adults Services for 2019/20 will focus on prevention and promoting independence for older people, and the thematic inspection for the Children's Services will focus on prevention, partnerships and the experiences of disabled children. If Gwynedd is selected for this programme, we will be issued a four-week notice for the inspection date.
- 4.16 It also notes that the engagement activities will be in-keeping with the thematic reviews. A meeting will be arranged during the summer in order to discuss our self-evaluation. A national thematic report will be announced.
- 4.17 The Inspectorate will trial a joint inspection in partnership with the HIW, Estyn, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies, and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation.
- 4.18 The thematic review of Community Mental Health teams will continue.

5. Matters to be Noted

- 5.1 The letter will be shared with the Wales Audit Office, Estyn and HIW.

6. Any Consultations Undertaken Prior to Recommending the Decision.

6.1. Views of the Statutory Officers:

i. Monitoring Officer:

I agree with the principle that reports of this type from regulators are subject to consideration by the Cabinet

ii. Head of Finance Department:

I have received confirmation by the author that the decision sought will not generate new financial commitments.

6.2. Views of the Local Member:

- 6.2.1 Not a local matter.

6.3. Results of Any Consultation:

6.3.1 None to note.

Appendices:

Appendix 1