

MEETING	The Council
DATE	13 May 2021
CABINET MEMBERS	Councillor Dafydd Meurig and Councillor Dilwyn Morgan
TITLE	The Annual Report of the Statutory Director of Social Services 2020/21
PURPOSE	To submit the report for the attention of Council Members
AUTHOR	Morwena Edwards, Statutory Director of Social Services and Corporate Director

1. Background

- 1.1. At the end of each financial year, every Statutory Director of Social Services is required to provide and publish a report regarding the performance of Social Services within the local authority during the previous year.
- 1.2. The purpose of the annual report is to note the local authority's journey towards improvement in providing services to people in their areas, to those who receive information, advice and assistance, the individuals and the carers who receive care and support. Under the requirements of the new Social Services and Well-being Act, the report must demonstrate how local authorities have promoted well-being and have been accountable for presenting well-being standards.
- 1.3. As Director, I am required to consider the range of information and experiences that affect the ability of the Council's Social Services to provide reliable, sustainable services of the highest quality, and to express my opinion in the report and present it to the Council.
- 1.4. The report draws attention to any lessons learnt, and outlines the priorities for the year to come. It also explains how we assessed people's needs, and included them at the centre as we shaped our services and care provision.
- 1.5. Of course, the Covid-19 crisis has had an unprecedented impact on the 2020/21 financial year. Despite the challenges faced because of the pandemic, I am very glad to note that the performance of social services for the past year has been positive once again. However, as we focus on coping with the Covid-19 crisis, some of our previous priorities have slipped somewhat or have been put to one side for the time being. As a result, my report this year will focus on how we have responded to the pandemic and on how we have continued to maintain and provide our essential services and care for our vulnerable people, as well as developing and providing new services and transforming services.

- 1.6. The performance of relevant services is challenged in accordance with the Council's internal procedures, and reports on this performance are presented by the relevant Cabinet members at regular intervals. An overview of the services' performance for the whole year will also be available in the Gwynedd Council Performance Report for 2020/21.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. The Council is requested to accept the report submitted by the authority's Statutory Director for Social Services.

3. Views of the Statutory Officers

The Monitoring Officer:

The report reflects the immensely challenging time experienced by the services during the year.

Head of Finance Department:

I note that the Director's annual report sets out Social Services' priorities for the year 2021/22. It is expected that the Adults and Children's care departments (services) aim to deliver these priorities within their existing resources, by working together on activities with different departments and external bodies, and by securing additional funding from Welsh Government. Approval of this annual report will not involve any additional financial commitment from the Council; members will recall that this was addressed appropriately in the 2021/22 budget setting cycle.