

REPORT TO THE CABINET
(03/05/16)

Cabinet Members: Councillor Gareth Roberts &
Councillor Mair Rowlands

Subject: Responding to the requirements of Part 8 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014

Contact officer: Morwena Edwards, Corporate Director

The decision sought/purpose of the report

The Cabinet is requested to agree that adopting and implementing a Protocol is the best way of ensuring that we respond in full to the requirements of Part 8 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

If the above is agreed, the Cabinet is requested to accept the Protocol (Appendix 1) as a method of ensuring that we respond in full to the requirements under Part 8 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

Introduction

Members will be aware of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 which has been in effect since 6 April this year. There are several parts to the Act which sets out a new direction for social services in Wales, including Part 8 which covers the duties of the Director of Social Services specifically.

In order to ensure that Part 8 of the Act is implemented, adopting a 'procedures protocol' (Protocol), which sets out the various requirements of the Role are fulfilled, would be an effective way for the Council to ensure that it meets the requirements in full.

Therefore, the purpose of the Protocol, attached in Appendix 1, is to set out the Council's arrangements in relation to how the Director fulfils the role against the expectations within Part 8. The Protocol is set out according to the requirements, for ease when reading it. Firstly, the

requirements have been listed, in accordance with the order of the Code of Practice, and then the way in which the Council will respond to the requirements in question is outlined. It is hoped that this will allow cross-referencing of what is expected in the Protocol with the requirements in the Act.

If it is believed that the arrangements are robust and meet the requirements set out within the Act, the Cabinet can rest assured that it responds in full to Part 8 of the Act and that the Director, Members and relevant Staff are entirely clear regarding what is expected of them.

Once the Cabinet has approved the Protocol (Appendix 1), the intention would be to ensure that the relevant individuals receive a copy and that it is reviewed annually. Should any amendments be needed to the Protocol, an amended version will be submitted to the Cabinet for its consideration.

Reasons for recommending the decision

As outlined above, by adopting the Director of Social Services' Protocol, the Cabinet is putting clear and explicit arrangements in place which ensure that all relevant persons understand what is expected of them in terms of meeting the requirements of Part 8 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

There follows an executive summary of the main arrangements and actions within the Protocol. (The full Protocol can be seen in Appendix 1).

1. The Chief Officers' Appointments Panel must consider the competencies required for the Role of Director of Social Services when recruiting and appointing.
2. The Head of the Paid Service must sit on the Appointments Panel to advise the panel on the appointment.
3. The Director of Social Services must be a full member of the Corporate Management Team.
4. The Head of the Paid Service must meet formally and regularly with the Director of Social Services to discuss appropriate matters.
5. The Director of Social Services must ensure that they update the members appropriately on matters of importance and, together with the

Head of the Paid Service must ensure that they understand the requirements of the Role of the Director of Social Services. Ensuring that they attend the following committees/meetings would be a way of enabling the Director to achieve this:-

- Full Council
- Cabinet
- Relevant Scrutiny Committees
- Relevant Delivery Panel

There will also be an opportunity to attend more informal meetings and the Director of Social Services will be required to seek to identify these opportunities appropriately.

6. The Director of Social Services must be satisfied that suitable arrangements are in place to receive information from heads of departments and relevant senior officers within the Council. Ensuring that the Director of Social Services attends or leads the following meetings would be a way of seeking to achieve this:-

- Corporate Management Team
- Management Group
- Care field governance meetings with the Head of the Paid Service
- Meetings with the Lead Director for Children and Young People
- Statutory Care Team
- Relevant Departmental Management Teams
- Corporate Parent Panel
- Strategic Safeguarding Panel

In addition, at the Strategic Safeguarding Panel there is a standing item on the agenda which gives members of the panel an opportunity to share relevant information with the Director.

7. The Council must ensure that collaborative working happens in order to meet the requirements of the Act, and the Director of Social Services is expected to collaborate with these partners effectively. Ensuring that the Director of Social Services attends or ensures a suitable presence at the following forums/meetings would fulfil much of the requirement:-

- Public Services Board
- County Forum or relevant meetings
- Regional Partnership Board
- Regional Leadership Group
- Regional Safeguarding Children Board
- Regional Safeguarding Adults Board
- Gwynedd Third Sector Liaison Group
- Leadership Group with Bangor University - (MA in Social Services course)

8. The Director of Social Services must meet with the CSSIW formally twice a year (March and September) in performance review meetings. At the March meeting, the chair of the Services Scrutiny Committee will expect to be invited to a part of the meeting, and for the September meeting, the two relevant Cabinet Members will expect to be invited to the meeting.

9. The Director of Social Services must submit an Annual Report to the Full Council, which should be done as soon as possible after the end of the year.

10. All Council officers are required to ensure that they inform the Director of Social Services immediately of any matter of concern involving the field.

Relevant considerations

No relevant considerations

Next steps and timetable

Ensure that the Protocol is shared with the relevant individuals and that a review of it is undertaken regularly by the Statutory Director and discussed at the Corporate Management Team.

Views of the statutory officers

The Chief Executive:

Nothing to add to the proposals which have been the subject of considerable discussions as they were developed.

The Monitoring Officer:

This report recommends a new Protocol for the Director which establishes an appropriate response by the Council to the requirements of Part 8 of the Social Services and Well-being Act 2014 and the statutory code which derives from the provision.

The Head of Finance Department:

I understand that implementing the decision sought in this report will not lead to any financial implications.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Protocol of the Director of Social Services

Background Documents

None

