

MEETING	Cabinet (prepared for the Services Scrutiny Committee on 27 September 2016)
DATE	7 and 28 June 2016
TITLE	Gwynedd Council Performance Overview 2015-16 - the fields of Children and Young People and Care
PURPOSE	To accept and note the information in the report
AUTHOR	Councillor Dyfed Edwards
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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In accordance with the Council's performance management regime, an overview of the Council's performance thus far in 2015/16 is submitted. This report focuses on Children and Young People and Care, which are included in the portfolios of the following Cabinet members:

Councillor Mair Rowlands
Councillor Gareth Thomas
Councillor Gareth Roberts

- 1.2 The report addresses the transformational plans included in the Strategic Plan and draws attention to the performance measures that are important to the people of Gwynedd and reflect the Council's day to day work.

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2.0 Reasons for recommending the decision

In order to ensure effective performance management.

3.0 Main messages

3.1 Positive performance in the Children and Young People field.

3.2 The projects exhibit a commitment to working in partnership in the interests of the people of Gwynedd.

3.3 The measures are performing as expected:

- In the Care field, the performance of measures suggests that individuals are empowered to live independent lives. See 5.2.
- Issues with Care are continuing in the Meirionnydd area, namely matters concerning people with reviewed care plans during the year and delays in transfers related to Tywyn and Dolgellau hospitals. Appendix 1, Page 6.

4.0 Strategic Plan Projects

Brief progress reports are submitted below on the Strategic Plan's projects for 2015/16, in the fields of Children and Young People and Care. The projects are in the ownership of the individual Cabinet members.

4.1 Children and Young People

Councillor Gareth Thomas

P1 Education Quality Strategy

The purpose of this project is to prepare and develop an Education Quality Strategy that will be a basis to improve and standardise education standards across the County.

An Education Quality Strategy has been formed and will be the basis to improve and reconcile education standards across the County.

The foundations set in the strategy have started to come to fruition already, and indicate the true impact on children and young people's results. The main strengths are noted below:

- The key performance measures in each key stage are improving by now, and compare favourably with similar local authorities. It indicates an annual increase for Gwynedd since 2013.

Percentage of pupils achieving the Foundation Phase Indicator (FPI)

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Number of pupils in the Summer cohort 2015 - 1,246

	2013	2014	2015
Gwynedd	82.8%	85.2%	86.8%
Wales	83.0%	85.2%	86.8%
National Position (1=best)	13	10	10

- Percentage of pupils who have achieved the Core Subjects Indicator (CSI) at the end of Key Stage 2:

Number of pupils in the Summer cohort 2015 - 1,141

	2013	2014	2015
Gwynedd	86.6%	86.0%	89.5%
Wales	84.3%	86.1%	87.7%
National Position (1=best)	6	14	6

- Almost every pupil leaves the school with an accreditation at the end of Key Stage 4:

Number of 15 year old pupils Summer 2015 - 1,310.

Performance of 15 year old pupils in comparison with Wales and other authorities:

Gwynedd	2015	
	%	Position
Level 1 Threshold	97.9	1
Level 2 Threshold	88.9	5
Level 2+Threshold	63.3	5
Core Subject Indicator	62.4	3
Capped Average Point Score	362.0	1
Average Point Score	617.2	1

Level 1 Threshold: Learning equivalent to five GCSEs grades D to G.

Level 2 Threshold: Learning equivalent to five GCSEs grades A* to C.

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Level 2+ Threshold: Learning equivalent to five GCSEs grades A* to C including Welsh or English and Mathematics
Core Subject Indicator: % learners who achieve the expected level in English or Welsh, Mathematics and Science together
Capped Average Points Score: average points of the eight best results of all qualifications approved for use
Average Points Score: average points of English or Welsh, Mathematics and Science

Some of the other outcomes are explained in detail in part 5 of the report, and in **Appendix 1 - Measures**.

P2 Improving leadership and management

The purpose of this project is to improve the condition of leadership in order to raise standards.

Thus far, this project is performing as expected.

A report has been commissioned examining the leadership field in Gwynedd, with a specific focus on leadership in the Education Department and GwE (North Wales School Effectiveness and Improvement Service). Mandatory training in the fields of leadership and management, and teaching and assessing has been provided for headteachers, setting a baseline in terms of expectations for the current educational year and beyond. In addition, the authority has effectively intervened in three schools which caused concern in terms of leadership. One of those schools has been removed from the list of schools in the special measures category by Estyn.

During the year, a range of activities were held to support and develop leaders. A brief description of some of those sessions is provided below:

- **Senior Leadership**
 - ***Developing Experienced Headteachers***: a unique programme over four days for a small target group of successful headteachers to move them on to the next step in their career. Four headteachers from Gwynedd attended the training.
 - ***Workshops to improve self-evaluation and improvement planning***: GwE was collaborating with the Department to provide leading workshops in the field of self-evaluation and improvement planning for a representative from the Senior Management Team of each school. The sessions enabled access to presentations on the best local practices and exemplar materials to support acting implementation in schools. There is clear evidence from the

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- monitoring visits that the guidance had refined implementation across several schools;
- **'Estyn' ready workshops:** The Education Department has also been collaborating with GwE to provide workshops to assist leaders to get their schools ready for Estyn inspections. Significant improvements can be seen in the 'progression category' profile of schools which have been inspected since then.

Initial discussions with GwE suggest that we will see further improvements this year and progress in the schools which will receive a B grade or higher in terms of their ability to improve. The work of evaluating the quality of leadership across Gwynedd schools is underway at present, and an interim grade will be available before the end of the 2016 Summer Term and a final grade will be issued early in the 2016 Autumn Term.

Creating a network of viable schools for the future

The purpose of this programme is to create a network of viable schools for the future. Delivering the programme will create better conditions to develop leadership, increase and standardise education standards and improve experiences for children and young people.

P3 Ysgol Bro Llifon

The purpose of this project is to provide a new school as a consequence of the Council's decision to close Groeslon, Carmel and Bron y Foel schools.

The new school was opened in September 2015. Following the school's opening, the following can be noted as positive outcomes:

- By now, more equal opportunities are provided for each child in the area so that they can be taught in groups of reasonable sizes
- The development has led to a better environment to ensure robust leadership and management
- Reduction in the range of cost per head for providing education in the area and a reduction in the number of surplus places thus increasing efficiency.

P4 Hafod Lon Newydd

The purpose of this project is to provide a new special school for pupils of Meirionnydd and Dwyfor in light of the decision to close the existing Ysgol Hafod Lon.

Good progress has been made with the construction work and it is still intended to open the school in the autumn term 2016. The work of agreeing

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on the new school's staffing structure has been achieved with the intention of delivering a teacher appointment procedure in addition to the existing teachers soon after the Whitsun holiday, and any assistants and ancillary staff before the summer holidays.

P5 The Gader Catchment Area

The purpose of this project is to establish a Welsh-medium Catchment Area School for 3-16 year olds in the catchment area of Ysgol y Gader.

It is expected that the construction work will be completed so that the new school can open in September 2017. A new headteacher has commenced in post since Easter 2016. Planning permission has been granted for the work on the site of Ysgol Gynradd Dolgellau.

P6 Glancegin

The purpose of this project is to secure an investment to provide a new Ysgol Glan Cegin building, which is located in Maesgeirchen.

The business case has been approved by Welsh Government, therefore the £5.11 million is in place for the new building of Ysgol Glancegin. The contractor has now been appointed and has commenced on the construction work, and the new school will be ready by the beginning of the term in September 2017. The work is progressing as expected.

P7 The Berwyn Catchment Area

The purpose of this project is create a Lifelong, Welsh-medium Learning Campus on the current site of Ysgol y Berwyn.

The final step in the business case has been approved by the Cabinet and Welsh Government. All statutory processes have been completed in line with the timetable set. The planning process is underway at present, and an application was submitted to Snowdonia National Park Committee in April.

It is expected that the construction work will be completed on time so that the new school can open in September 2018.

P8 Transforming the provision of Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion

The purpose of this project will be to transform the service for children with additional learning needs.

The strategy has been agreed and approved and the form and structure of the new service has been drawn up in draft form.

During the year, several changes have been made to the provision including:

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- Not offering the new 3* support from 1 September 2015. The 3* support is an additional provision for pupils that usually have substantial difficulties, but who are not within the statutory guidelines. The budget for schools with devolved budgets has already been frozen for around 5 years. Schools are required to be more flexible in terms of the use of their Additional Learning Needs budget in the interim.
- Hold training for the Additional Learning Needs Coordinators of every school on the use of person-centred methods, in addition to creating a comprehensive e-learning package.
- Review the use of criteria for accessing/leaving the Cognition and Learning Service (oracy and numeracy) meaning that we are better at targeting the right children.
- Pilot the use of outreach assistants to offer support to children leaving the language disorder centres rather than having individual assistants for a specific number of hours per week.
- Begin to establish the new behaviour support service, in response to the lack of provision.

The service structure which has been formed in a joint manner with Anglesey provides a clear picture for the provision model in future.

Councillor Mair Rowlands

P9 Ensure a range of preventative services for vulnerable groups of children and young people in Gwynedd.

The purpose of the project is to ensure an overview of the preventative agenda in the County, by working on a multi-agency level to ensure that we focus our efforts on doing the right thing in the right place.

In order to arrange our early intervention and preventative services around specific issues which face Gwynedd, the Children and Supporting Families Department has undertaken an assessment of the needs of families by using local data. This assessment has identified gaps and specific needs as ones which need to be targeted when planning preventative packages/programmes for the future and when improving the provision which is offered to the young person and the family. The gaps include speech delay and language, low level mental health support and parenting needs.

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In addition to the gaps, the assessment has looked at the good practice which has arisen from preventative programmes where it would be beneficial for us to strengthen our provision. The following are suggested as core principles and a direction for the work:

- Strengthen and expand the Team Around the Family model (Gyda'n Gilydd) as a way of working effectively and consider this model for programmes for the future
- Work with an entire family, rather than one family member
- Identify problems early by ensuring that accurate systems are in place between different agencies
- Key worker is a worker the family can build a relationship with and trust in.

As a next step to the work, the Children and Supporting Families Department will form a clear work programme which will focus on the above principles. This work programme will set the direction of the work.

4.2 Safeguarding

Councillor Mair Rowlands

D1 Ensure whole Council ownership in the safeguarding field
The purpose of the project is to ensure that there is corporate ownership of the safeguarding agenda and that effective steps are taken to safeguard children and vulnerable adults in Gwynedd.

The work programme has been submitted to the Strategic Safeguarding Children and Adults Panel in September and since then the Executive Group has been implementing that work programme. It is progressing, but as with many projects, it is likely that the element of measuring the impact is the most challenging. In order to seek to respond to this, the Task Group has been established to create a system to measure the impact of adopting and complying with policy, the work of raising awareness and the impact of training on safeguarding.

Examples have been collected by the Designated Managers of action by front-line staff as a result of better understanding of safeguarding during the last two years. Examples show the workforce's ability to identify safeguarding matters and their willingness to take action. In some cases, frontline staff members have made a safeguarding referral which has led to further action. An Awareness Audit was held during the year and the results

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have shown an increase in staff awareness levels across the Council in terms of safeguarding issues. In addition, the numbers who accept the policy and complete the e-learning modules mean that the message is reaching more staff and across services.

D2 Safeguarding children and young people

The purpose of the project is to continually improve the safeguarding arrangements and culture within the field of children and young people.

- The first part of this project is in the Child Sexual Exploitation field, and the Regional Safeguarding Children's Board's regional action plan was submitted to the Safeguarding Strategic Panel. The Executive Group will consider the corporate implications deriving from the work programme. It is foreseen that it will be necessary to raise awareness and form a local work programme to respond to and ensure compliance with the expectations. In the performance overview report submitted on 3 May 2016, it was reported that we were considering collaborating with an expert in this field (Dr Helen Beckett). There is no confirmation yet as to when this will happen.

Work is also underway to ensure that we as a Council, as much as possible, understand the demand for service and the trends of Child Sexual Exploitation in Gwynedd. At present, it is difficult to note the impact on children and young people thus far as it is early days of implementing the strategy.

- ii) The second part of this project is the work of strengthening procedures and the safeguarding culture within the Education field. The report on 3 May 2016 noted that a clear work programme had been formed and was being implemented. In order to ensure that the schools are completely clear of their responsibilities and that procedures and a robust safeguarding culture exist in Gwynedd schools, a Safeguarding Officer was appointed to the Education Department, and the officer has been in post since September 2015.

The fields which have been identified as a priority are noted below:

- Review Level 1 and Level 2 Child Protection Training
- Review the exemplary policies available to schools in the field of safeguarding, child protection and physical intervention in the

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context of national developments and the 'keep the learner safe' guidelines.

- Ensure that every Governing Body has adopted the relevant policies
- Every school to have a Safeguarding visit before an inspection
- Agree on one county strategy
- Agree on exemplar county policy
- Raise awareness and training on 'Child Sexual Exploitation'
- Raise awareness and radicalisation training
- Raise awareness of Harmful Sexual Behaviour.

It is premature to measure the impact and success of the above activity but, by the next meeting of the Strategic Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Panel, the leader of the project will seek to offer an overview of the bulk of the work, and as part of that it is expected for the impact to come to light.

D3 Safeguarding vulnerable adults

The purpose of the project is to continually improve the safeguarding arrangements and culture within the field of adults.

With the department's Senior Management roles now filled, the Department is in a situation where it can fully implement the project in question. Ceryl Davies, Complex Needs Senior Manager will move the work programme on and it is expected to see a significant increase during the next months. Although many of the recommendations associated with the work programme have been implemented, the Cabinet Member is eager to have a clear reporting procedure which ensures an overview of the work. Implementing some of the recommendations involved with this project without a doubt has a direct impact on people's lives e.g. developing bespoke information sheets which have been tailored to individuals who have different needs and therefore they facilitate access to services. Another example is the work to prioritise and increase capacity which has occurred in terms of responding to DoLS requirements - which ensures an assessment of the individual's rights.

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4.3 Care

Councillor Gareth Roberts

G1 Care Challenge

The purpose of the project will be to try to ensure that the people of Gwynedd truly understand the challenge which faces us to motivate and support communities to contribute by taking action.

This project has been operational for 12 months now and though there has been a great deal of activity it is probably too early to see the impact of the project on the residents of Gwynedd. The work of the project over the past year has raised the awareness of staff, elected members, partners and providers of the challenge facing the sector in the future and by doing so, the implications of the new Social Services and Well-being Act also. In terms of trying to raise awareness of the act, three member training sessions have been held over the past few months, a booklet has been developed and articles have been shared internally with elected members. Specifically in terms of the workforce, staff conferences have been held as well as monthly bulletins released in order to update staff on key issues.

A Well-being Manager was appointed on 13 May 2016 and this completely new role will undoubtedly give the necessary boost to push forwards the well-being elements of the project. There has been little progress in terms of engaging with the public during 2015/16; however, much of the preparatory work has been undertaken in terms of mapping services and activities in specific areas and trialling different types of engagements e.g. a discussion in quiz form. The purpose of engaging with communities will be to spur on the development of preventative activity which would reduce over-dependency on social services. Significant progress in this respect is expected over the coming months.

Therefore, work to raise awareness has been successful, with further work to be done in order to engage with communities.

G2 Integrated Working Project, focusing on what counts for individuals

This project's purpose will be to redesign our current working methods to ensure that our central focus is on the interests of the people of Gwynedd (specifically Older People and people with Physical Disabilities in the context of this project).

In February, all Cabinet members visited the integrated team at Ysbyty Alltwen, which is operational in the Eifionydd area. Cabinet members had an opportunity to speak with staff in order to have a taste of their experiences in terms of the change in their working methods and the

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resultant interests for the residents of Gwynedd of working in an integrated way and placing the individual at the centre of our services.

It is intended to extend the project across the County and there has been progress in terms of those developments. A very constructive meeting was held with the Deputy Operating Officer of the Health Board and a further meeting has been arranged with the new Chief Executive of the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board.

Specifically in terms of the effect of this project, it is probably true to say that the residents of Eifionydd, who have experienced this new way of working, get the full benefits of an integrated service which focuses entirely on what counts for them. Feedback from the individuals has been very positive over the past year and confirms that we are on the right tracks. We are also starting to see changes in terms of what is being commissioned i.e. we rely less on traditional services, and try to offer alternative options for individuals which very often better address their actual needs. This evidence shows that this project is making good progress.

**G3 Restructuring the Adults, Health and Well-being Department
If the substantial changes and the change of mind-set and culture
within the department are to be successful, it is crucial that the
staffing structure of the department is fit for purpose for the future.
The purpose of this project is to act on restructuring the department.**

The slippage experienced in some stages of the project at the beginning, namely appointing to the senior management levels, continues to have a negative impact on staff certainty for the future and this could have a detrimental impact on service provision. However, we have managed to maintain the timescale for restructuring the wider structure. The scope of this project has developed significantly since originally commissioning the project and explains this slippage. Originally, it was only the structure of the Adults, Health and Well-being Department that was under consideration but, following the influence and development of the G2 project (above) over the past year, part of the structure (Older People and Physical Disabilities) is now being developed in an entirely integrated way with the Health Board.

The Cabinet Member is confident that this adaptation will result in a structure that is more fit for purpose for the future and will ensure that we have the best possible governance arrangements in order to be able to work in an integrated way and respond to the new Social Services and Well-being Act. Despite the change, it should be noted that elements of the project which are not dependent on external influences (e.g. Learning Disabilities, Housing and Provider) are implemented as expected. The

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elements of the project which have therefore been implemented allow staff to act in accordance with the expectations and interests of the new act.

G4 Older People Accommodation Strategy

The purpose of this project is to ensure agreement on the Older People Accommodation Strategy and use it for the purposes of holding developmental discussions with partners.

The purpose of this project is to ensure agreement on the Older People Accommodation Strategy and use it for the purposes of holding developmental discussions with partners. It is confirmed that this project has been completed within the schedule promised in the strategic plan and the strategy was approved by the Cabinet at its meeting on 15 March 2016.

At present, no-one has benefited from the project; however, implementing it will contribute to ensuring that we have the suitable provision in the appropriate places for older people in the county.

G5 Extra Care Housing (Porthmadog)

The purpose of this project is to build Extra Care Housing in Porthmadog.

Demolition and clearance work is underway. Despite the slippage in the original timetable, the Cabinet Member is confident that we will have achieved what was promised by the end of the strategic plan's period. As a result of Welsh Government underspend, we have received an additional grant of £1.4m, and have been able to use it to pay for most of the remaining amount for this development.

At present, no-one has benefited from the project; however, it is likely that the fact that the developments are now well underway will give an opportunity to some residents in the county, who are interested in this type of accommodation, to plan ahead.

G6 Frondeg

The purpose of this project is to ensure clarity on the Frondeg site and make a decision on the way forward.

The original purpose of the project was to ensure clarity on the Frondeg site and make a decision on the way forward. At a meeting of the Cabinet on 19 January 2016, following a period of formal engagement and consultation, it was decided to develop a new accommodation model for adults with learning disabilities on the Frondeg site, and bring the current use of the building to an end once the new development would become available.

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Fulfilling the original purpose of the project has had a positive impact on the residents of Cartref Frondeg as they are now clear about the way forward. Though the new development will mean a significant change to the residents, the impact is generally positive i.e. the residents will continue to live in Frondeg as it currently is until the new accommodation is ready.

G7 Internal Provision

The purpose of this project is to decide how we will run the Provider Service (that provides care services) and act on that.

Work is still ongoing in order to decide on how we will run the Provider Service. Initial options will be presented to the Cabinet members shortly, and further work has been commissioned in order to include a financial assessment.

The Cabinet member believes that there is a need to consider the way forward in the context of how fragile the care market is currently, and the potential to respond to this by collaborating with the Health Board.

At present, no-one has benefited from this work and it is also too early to state whether any benefits will arise from the project.

5.0 Measures

5.1 Children and Young People

Councillor Gareth Thomas

A copy of all the Education Department's measures can be seen in **Appendix 1**.

Gwynedd's performance is generally good across the Key Stages. Performance is very good in Key Stage 3 and is strong by the end of Key Stage 4, and Gwynedd is leading on three out of six main measures on a National level. In the primary sector, performance in two key stages is strengthening with room for improvement in the Foundation Phase in particular. Apart from in Key Stage 3, there is room to strengthen performance across the range of measures especially in order to ensure that more able pupils perform better.

I would like to draw your attention to the following measures:

- **EDU/016b Percentage of pupil attendance in secondary schools**
- During the academic year, pupil attendance within the secondary sector increased by 0.4% to 94.6%. In comparison: nationally, the

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figure increased by 0.2% to 93.8%. Attendance in Gwynedd's secondary schools has increased from 4th place in 13/14 to joint 2nd highest in Wales.

- **DANS06 Percentage of 16 year old pupils who achieve the Core Subjects Indicator (Grade C or above in Welsh/English, Mathematics and Science)** - This percentage figure has increased by 9.2% during the last three academic years and is 62.4%. Gwynedd is in 3rd place nationally.
- **EDU/017 Percentage of pupils achieving Level 2+ threshold including grade A*-C in Welsh or English and Mathematics** - We are performing in the 5th place nationally on this. This measure has increased annually since 2012. The Education Department and GwE have identified English and Mathematics as fields for regional improvement, and the Mathematics Advisory Officer post has been filled (commencing on 1 June 2016) in order to address local needs.
- **EDU/008a Number of permanent exclusions in primary schools in the academic year** - For the first time, pupils from some of Gwynedd's primary schools have been permanently excluded. The number of fixed term exclusions has also increased to 83. 21 primary schools made exclusions during the year. It can be argued that a lack of specialist provision is a factor in this increase. In response to this, the department is commencing specialist unit provision within schools in order to support the pupils with the most complex behavioural and emotional needs.

Appendix 2 contains the data of Gwynedd schools' inspections since January 2015. Since including this data in the last report, six primary schools have had inspections. These primary schools received a good or improved classification across the three key questions and both general opinions. One school had been listed as Outstanding for each indicator and another had received Outstanding for leadership and the ability to improve. In every case the grade for the sub-indicator Quality Improvement was good or improved and from the reports that have been published thus far, no further comment has been made on quality improvement or improvement planning.

A clear link can be seen here with the work of project P2- Leadership and Management Improvement which has a positive impact on improving the quality of education in the County.

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Councillor Mair Rowlands

A copy of all measures for Children and Supporting Families, Leisure and Youth can be seen in **Appendix 1**. The work of developing the purpose and measures is ongoing.

In general, the measures are performing well, with several maintaining and improving performance compared with 2014/15. Some of these are noted below:

LlesPMG2 - Clear pathway scheme agreed for looked after children -

This performance has been 100% every year since 2013, and this figure has remained for this year, with 97 young people having a pathway plan in place.

SCC/041(a) - The percentage of eligible, relevant children and children who were relevant and who have pathway schemes as required -

This performance has maintained 100% again this year. In general, this figure was 91.2% in 2014/15. National figures have not yet been published for 2015/16, but Gwynedd are in 1st place at present.

Diogelu1 - The rate of children who were discussed in supervision, where significant harm had been considered -

This performance has maintained 100% again this year. As this work has gone well in Arfon, it is intended to extend to children's teams in Dwyfor and Meirionnydd in 2016/17, and to Derwen (the service which works with disabled children and their families) and the 16+ Team after that.

There are some measures which haven't performed as well, and the Cabinet Member is eager for the Children and Supporting Families Department to undertake further work to consider where improvement is possible and to overcome challenges with some of them:

SCC/025 - The percentage of statutory visits with looked after children that were supposed to be held during the year that were held in

accordance with the regulations - 2015/16 performance is 87% compared with 89% last year. The department has confirmed that the visits have happened, but in some situations, they haven't been recorded within the appropriate timescale. The department is considering a way to ensure that the information is recorded and is keeping an eye on that.

CSP3 - Percentage of progress made by families following intervention by Team Around the Family (on average) -

This figure is noted as 25.3%. The percentage has decreased due to the nature of the families the team is working with. The needs of the families are much more

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complex and higher in the continuum of need which means dealing much less with early intervention cases. I have also asked the team to consider other measures to measure the impact of this work, as I have already noted when discussing project P9 Ensure a range of preventative services for groups of vulnerable children and young people in Gwynedd.

SCC/024 - Percentage of looked after children during the year who have a Personal Education Plan within 20 school days of being admitted to care or joining a new school during the year - This figure is 37.9% compared with 82.1% last year.

Some of the measures reported during the last years are changing in light of the Social Services and Well-being Act 2014, which is operational since 6 April 2016. We will also be reporting on new measures as a result of this.

5.2 Care

Councillor Gareth Roberts

The purpose of the Adults services has been agreed, namely 'Helping me to live my life how I want to', and work is underway in order to ensure that arrangements are in place to capture the information which states whether or not the service achieves this.

An integral part of this purpose, which is core to the Care services, is the need to ensure that the users are safe. Of all the adult protection referrals completed during the year, we succeeded to manage the danger 99% of the time. **(SCA/019)**.

During the past year, one of the main matters reported upon is the stability of nursing homes across Gwynedd. The situation highlights how unstable the sector is and confirms the need to offer solutions as soon as possible. The rate of delayed transfers from hospitals for social care reasons has deteriorated significantly this year **(SCA/001)** - an increase from 1.05 in 2014/15 to 2.45 in 2015/16. It appears that the delay is more of a problem in the link with Tywyn and Dolgellau Hospitals than in any other location in the county i.e. Of the 30 cases during the year, 16 of those involve these hospitals. Despite this, compared to the whole of Wales, Gwynedd's performance remains good (based on draft figures, Gwynedd performs 6th best in Wales). This performance represents general shortcomings in the system in terms of high demand on the hospitals, lack of beds in the community and also a lack of capacity in terms of professionals and home carers in some specific areas of Gwynedd (based on an initial analysis,

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66% of the reasons for Gwynedd are as a result of domiciliary care reasons specifically).

Following on from this the **SCA/007** measure is 'reviewing care plans' and shows a decline from 85% in 2013/14 to 79% in 2015/16. In analysing this figure further per area, it is seen that the performance of Meirionnydd is 68% compared with Arfon at 91%. I believe that this decline again highlights the obvious lack of capacity in some areas and consequently the prioritisation that has had to happen. The service, jointly with partners, is seeking to respond to these challenges.

On a more positive note, the remaining measures in **Appendix 1 (OED003, OED019, SCA002a and SCA002b)** suggest that the service is on the right track. For example, there seems to be a reduction in the proportion of people who receive traditional support in the community and also in our residential homes. This may suggest that we are less reliant on traditional care this year compared with previous years. To support this, there has also been a gradual increase in the use of direct payments (**OED019**) which of course promotes and empowers individuals to live their lives as they wish to live them.

6.0 Conclusion

- 6.1 Steady progress has been made with the transformational projects. The performance of measures is as expected, with new measures developed testifying that services are putting more emphasis on the Gwynedd people.

7.0 Recommendation

- 7.1 Note and accept the report.

Views of the statutory officers

The Chief Executive:

Nothing to add to the report.

The Monitoring Officer:

No comments from a propriety perspective.

The Head of Finance Department:

Nothing to add from a financial propriety perspective.

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