

Regulatory Body	Year	Name of Report	Date Issued	Findings	Council Response	Timescale	Responsible Officer	Where reported	Date
Wales Audit Office	2014	Review of Corporate Safeguarding Arrangements in Welsh Councils	Feb-15	<p>The review specifically considered the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements within two selected services:</p> <p>a) Education Services b) Cultural and Leisure Services</p> <p>Fieldwork was undertaken at all 22 Welsh councils; surveys of local authority staff and elected members were undertaken; in addition to review of relevant research and guidance from the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales and Estyn.</p> <p>- Welsh Government guidance, which sets out the safeguarding arrangements it expects councils to put in place, is not sufficiently clear and compliance with guidance by councils varies.</p> <p>- Council-wide arrangements for safe recruitment and training do not always provide assurance that corporate safeguarding responsibilities are being discharged effectively.</p> <p>- Safeguarding arrangements are not consistently monitored and evaluated by councils as part of their corporate scrutiny, internal audit and risk management arrangements.</p> <p>The report contains 8 key recommendations.</p> <p>http://www.audit.wales/system/files/publications/365A2015_safeguarding_english_final.pdf</p>	Not required - FCC not specifically mentioned in the report.	Not Applicable	Chief Officer - Social Services	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Wales Audit Office	2014/15	Annual Improvement Report including Corporate Assessment 2014	Mar-15	<p>Extracts from summary</p> <p>The Auditor General has concluded that the Council's track record suggests that it is likely to respond positively to the internal and significant external challenges it faces and make arrangements to secure continuous improvement for 2015-16. This judgement reflects the conclusions of his corporate assessment, that the Council has made significant progress in a number of difficult areas during the last year; although it needs to strengthen aspects of its arrangements, the Council is reasonably well placed to continue to deliver its priorities in the face of further financial challenges.</p> <p>The audit team found that, despite some strengths and areas of progress, aspects of the Council's arrangements are not fully supporting decisionmaking and the delivery of the Council's agreed priorities.</p> <p>We also found that the Council has taken significant strides forward in its use of resources and now needs to co-ordinate the elements more systematically in the face of future financial challenges.</p> <p>http://www.audit.wales/publication/flintshire-county-council-annual-improvement-report-including-corporate-assessment-2014</p>	As is practice the Council published a response on the issues raised within the report.	On-going	Chief Executive	Cabinet Audit Committee Corporate Resources O&S Committee	Mar-15 Mar-15 Apr-15
Wales Audit Office	2014/15	Review of Whistleblowing Arrangements	Mar-15	<p>The Council has a satisfactory whistleblowing policy which it applies appropriately. The Council's whistleblowing policy demonstrates a clear commitment to handling whistleblowing concerns appropriately but with opportunities to make the policy more user-friendly in a few areas. The Council maintains its records securely and follows its policies and procedures appropriately when investigating whistleblowing concerns.</p>	No response required.	Not Applicable	Head of Internal Audit	Audit Committee	Jun-15

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Wales Audit Office	2014/15	The financial resilience of Councils in Wales	Apr-15	<p>This work was undertaken by staff of the Wales Audit Office and Grant Thornton on behalf of the Auditor General. The focus of the review is the 2014-15 financial planning period and the delivery of 2013-14 financial plans. We have also analysed the financial performance track-record of councils in 2011-12 and 2012-13. There were three main elements to our work.</p> <p>10 Based on the findings of this audit, the Auditor General has concluded that Councils in Wales are under significant financial stress and have been active in meeting the challenge. However, the next few years will see increasing financial pressures and councils will need to improve strategic financial planning in order to effect transformation and protect their financial resilience.</p> <p>http://www.audit.wales/publication/financial-resilience-councils-wales</p>	Not required - FCC not specifically mentioned in the report.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Wales Audit Office	2013/14	Certification of Grants and Returns 2013/14	Apr-15	While the Council had generally adequate arrangements in place for the production and submission of its 2013-14 grant claims, there is scope for improvement and further embedding of previously adopted arrangements. We are continuing to work with the Council to make these improvements for 2014-15.	The Corporate Finance Management Team has considered the report in detail and has developed an action plan to address the findings and recommendations in the report. This plan will be closely monitored and reviewed in July and October 2015 to ensure that appropriate actions have been taken to address the recommendations.	Oct-15	Corporate Finance Manager	Audit Committee	Jun-15
Wales Audit Office	2014/15	Improvement Plan 2014/15 - Certificate of Compliance	Jul-15	<p>Certificate 1</p> <p>The Council has discharged its duties under section 15(6) to (9) of the Measure and has acted in accordance with Welsh Government guidance sufficiently to discharge its duties.</p> <p>There are no new statutory recommendations or proposals for improvement.</p>	In our response we set out how we will make improvements to ensure full compliance with the spirit and detail of the national guidance.	On-going	Chief Executive	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

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Wales Audit Office	2014/15	Audit of Financial Statements	Sep-15	<p>Unqualified</p> <p>Opinion of the Auditor General for Wales on the accounting statements of Flintshire County Council</p> <p>In my opinion the accounting statements and related notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - give a true and fair view of the financial position of Flintshire County Council as at 31 March 2015 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and - have been properly prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2014-15. <p>Opinion of the Auditor General for Wales on the accounting statements of Clwyd pension fund</p> <p>In my opinion, the pension fund accounts and related notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - give a true and fair view of the financial transactions of the Clwyd Pension Fund during the year ended 31 March 2015 and of the amount and disposition of the fund's assets and liabilities as at that date; and - have been properly prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2014-15. 	No response required.	Not Applicable	Chief Executive	County Council Audit Committee	Sept-14 Sept-14
Wales Audit Office	2014/15	National Study: Independence of Older People	Oct-15	<p>During 2015, WAO examined whether councils are working effectively to support the independence of older people.</p> <p>Based on the findings of this audit, the Auditor General has concluded that whilst the Welsh public sector recognises the challenges of an ageing population, some key barriers are inhibiting the shift in focus that is needed to reduce demand for health and social care services and support older people to live independently.</p> <p>http://www.audit.wales/publications/Independence-of-Older-People</p>	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Chief Officer - Social Services	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Wales Audit Office	2014/15	Audit of Flintshire County Council's assessment of 2014/15 performance (Annual Performance Report)	Nov-15	<p>Certificate 2</p> <p>The Council has discharged its duties under sections 15(2), (3), (8) and (9) of the Measure and has acted in accordance with Welsh Government guidance sufficiently to discharge its duties.</p>	A formal response was not made as no issues were raised.	Not Applicable	Chief Executive	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

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Wales Audit Office	2014/15	National Study: Delivering with less - Leisure Services	Dec-15	<p>During 2015, staff of the Wales Audit Office, on behalf of the Auditor General, examined council leisure services under our series of 'delivering with less' thematic reviews.</p> <p>We found that although public sector ownership and management of leisure provision is starting to change with the transfer of some services and assets to other models of operation, such as private sector trusts, strategic decisions on whether to transfer or continue with in-house provision of leisure services have not always been based on robust information or a consideration of all of the options open to councils.</p> <p>http://www.audit.wales/publication/delivering-less-leisure-services</p>	TBC	TBC	Principal Leisure Services Officer	TBC	TBC
CSSIW	2014/15	Flintshire Fostering Services	Apr-15	<p>The fostering service was subject to a regular base line inspection which assessed whether the registration of the service is justified and the conditions of registration are appropriate. This addressed quality of life of children, with other themes being staffing, leadership and management and carers.</p> <p>The inspection team identified a number of positives including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The service is described as very child focused, with all staff aware of each child's needs and circumstances. - The quality of the service has maintained with some improvements made despite some staffing pressures. - Evidence of good recording of information with decisions about placements appropriately recorded. <p>The inspection identified one area of non-compliance in which independent members of the Fostering Panel were employees of Flintshire County Council. (This has now been addressed with the appointment of two new members not employed by the Local Authority).</p> <p>Further proactive areas were identified to improve standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The effective recruitment of sufficient carers - Informal network support for Foster Carers - Documentation to include feedback from Looked After Children Education (LACE) - improvements in the role and function of the fostering panel coordinator have been made - questionnaire formats do reflect distinct feedback of children & kinship carers 	The Council's response has been incorporated as part of the Fostering Inspection Action Plan.	Various as per Action Plan	Chief Officer - Social Services	Social & Health O&S Committee	Jul-15

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CSSIW	2015	Inspection of Children's Social Services	Sep-15	<p>A detailed inspection of services was undertaken during May and June 2015, concerning 4 main themes: Theme 1 Access Arrangements Theme 2 Assessment Theme 3 Safeguarding and Care Management Theme 4 Leadership and Governance</p> <p>The report reflects that there are many strengths in the service notably good social work practice, strong political and corporate support for children's services, and, timely, well managed and child focussed child protection conferences and reviews. The service was also found to have a committed, suitably trained and qualified workforce with a strong commitment from senior managers to achieve improvements in the support for children and families.</p> <p>The report reflects areas for improvement in the duty and assessment model for children, our process for initial screening and the quality and timeliness of assessment and care plans. Furthermore the council's strategic vision for the service needs to be translated into a strategy that is well understood by staff, users and partners.</p> <p>The report acknowledges that children's services has undergone a period of transition in the last year and supports the approach of the new senior team in taking forward positive service change.</p>	The Council's response has been incorporated as part of the action plan to address the 12 recommendations for improvement identified.	Various - as per action plan	Chief Officer - Social Services	Social & Health O&S Committee	Nov-15
CSSIW	2014/15	Performance Evaluation Report 2014/15	Oct-15	<p>The CSSIW evaluation confirms that the council is realistic about the risks posed by increasing demand, meeting greater complexity of need and growing budgetary pressures. The report identifies that the council: 1. has developed a number of new service models as part of a strategic transformation programme that is increasingly focused upon the goal of creating an integrated preventative system for care 2. is developing improved access arrangements 3. is investing in smarter commissioning 4. is forging stronger and more integrated working arrangements with an outcome focus.</p> <p>Areas for further development in 2015/16 relate to: Adult safeguarding: Thresholds need to provide a more consistent response and adults at risk need to have a stronger voice and be at the centre of working practice. Early intervention and prevention: Arrangements with Childrens services need to ensure a timely and consistently appropriate response. The reasons for a significant increase in re-referrals need to be understood and addressed. Outcomes for looked after children: Whilst recent outcomes have been good, there are indications that corporate parenting is not as effective as it could be. A significant number of placements are not in the immediate area, school placements are not as stable as they were and health assessments are not routinely undertaken.</p>	An action plan is in place to address areas for improvement raised by CSSIW.	Various - as in action plan	Chief Officer - Social Services	Social & Health O&S Committee	Jan-16

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CSSIW	2015	2 Residential Homes reviewed	Jan 2015 Nov 2015	Croes Atti Llys Gwenffrwd No issues of non compliance reported in either report.	Not Applicable - Residential homes respond directly to CSSIW. The Flintshire Contact Monitoring Team are advised of results and will follow up with the homes where negative reports (escalating concerns) are received to ensure recommendations are actioned.	Various - as per Action Plans	Registered Manager	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
CSSIW	2015	Quayplay	Nov-15	A positive report with a number of areas being highlighted as what the service does well, including: - The service improves year on year as procedures, equipment and facilities are evaluated and the necessary changes made. - The service provided is inclusive, working in partnership with 'Action for Children'. - The Flintshire 'Buddy Scheme' which has been established for over ten years enables children to access their local play provision during the summer via the summer play scheme programme. - Quayplay works closely with families to identify any barriers and how best to work around them. - The scheme operates its own bus service to and from the sports centre, collecting children and returning them to strategic points where their parents wait. No issues of non compliance reported.	TBC	Various - as per Action Plans	TBC	TBC	TBC
ESTYN	2014/15	Schools Inspections	2014/15 School Year	Estyn have undertaken inspections of 13 schools during the 2014/15 school year. One school had been placed in Special Measures in Jan 2014 but was removed in July 2015. Progress was reported to Lifelong Learning O&S / Education and Youth O&S as follows: July 2014: Chief Officer Year End Report October 2014: Learning from School Standards Monitoring Group Report November 2014: Local Authority Self Evaluation Report	Schools respond to Estyn, however where a school is in a 'Serious' category of concern, i.e. 'special measures' or 'in need of significant improvement', the LA is held to account by Estyn and produces an LA Action Plan to support the school.	Various - as per Action Plans	School's Govern Body & the LA where schools are in a 'Serious' category of concern	Lifelong Learning O&S / Education & Youth O&S	See dates and reports under Findings

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ESTYN / WAO	2014	Achieving improvement in support to schools through regional education consortia - an early view	Jun-15	<p>On behalf of the Auditor General, Wales Audit Office staff have examined whether the Welsh Government's arrangements for regional consortia are likely to deliver the intended improvement in support to schools and local authorities. In reviewing the progress of regional consortia, we focused on the effectiveness of governance arrangements based on the Good Governance Standard for Public Services. The main fieldwork for the study was undertaken between August 2014 and January 2015 in collaboration with Estyn which has prepared and published a thematic survey report on the work of regional consortia for school improvement services.</p> <p>We concluded that after an uncertain start, the foundations for regional school improvement services are being established and there are positive signs of progress, but remaining weaknesses are hindering the development of the whole system and the effective governance and financial management of regional consortia.</p> <p>http://www.audit.wales/publication/achieving-improvement-support-schools-through-regional-education-consortia-%E2%80%93-early-view</p>	Not required - FCC not specifically mentioned in the report.	Not Applicable	Chief Officer - Education and Youth	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Foods Standards Agency	Audit Date: Oct 2013 Follow up: Nov 2015	Updated Action Plan (excluding Feed Service)	Draft Action Plan Nov 2015	Of the 18 recommendations 7 had been completed and good progress had been made in the remaining 11.	No formal response has been made yet. The updated action plan received to date was only a draft within a proposed new format. The FSA just wanted comments on the proposed new format and not the content at this stage, which we have done. A response will be made to the published report.	Various - as per Action Plan (TBC)	Health Protection Manager	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Welsh Public Library Standards (WPLS)	2014/15	Review of Flintshire's performance against the WPLS	Aug-15	<p>Extract from Executive Summary</p> <p>Flintshire met 17 of the 18 core entitlements in full, and partially met 1. Of the 7 quality indicators which have targets, Flintshire achieved 2 in full and 5 in part. More analysis in the return of areas of weaker performance would be beneficial and help provide context. The service has suffered from budget reductions and is now missing a substantial number of targets. Future progress could be static. However there are areas of strength, such as the request service and percentage of resources on materials.</p>	No formal response required.	Not Applicable	Principal Librarian	TBC	TBC