

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: MONDAY, 17 DECEMBER 2012

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

SUBJECT: THE ANNUAL COUNCIL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF SOCIAL SERVICES BY THE CARE AND SOCIAL SERVICES INSPECTORATE WALES (CSSIW)

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To present the Annual Council Performance Evaluation by the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW), on the performance of Social Services for 2011-12.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 The evaluation is in response to the Director of Community Services' Annual Performance report for Social Services 2011, and sets out the areas of progress and areas for development for Flintshire Social Services, for the year 2011-12.

2.02 As well as responding to the Director's Annual Report, the evaluation also draws on various evidence including improvement plans, audit reports and inspection reports, and the regulatory work of CSSIW completed during the year.

2.03 The evaluation sets out areas of progress made in the year, and highlights good practice, as well as the key risks facing Social Services.

2.04 The 2011-12 evaluation was presented to the Director by the Inspectors in October, where there was an opportunity for issues arising from the evaluation to be raised and discussed.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 The overall tone of the report is very positive. In summary, the council has made solid progress over the past year, and has a promising programme of modernisation in place in both Children's and Adults' services. There has been positive improvement against a range of national performance indicators.

- 3.02 For Adults, there is praise for Transforming Social Services for Adults, supported by increasing investment in assistive technology, Citizen Directed Support and direct payments, resulting in more people being supported in their own homes and fewer needing long term residential care.
- 3.03 In Social Services for Children, the evaluation notes the shift towards prevention and early intervention with a whole family focus. Fewer children need care, and those requiring protection benefit from an increased investment in resources. The evaluation also refers to two recent positive inspections of frontline children's services and fostering services.
- 3.04 Across both services there is effective partnership working and a clear focus on delivering value for money, while retaining the flexibility to address future risks and demands.
- 3.05 There are a number of areas that CSSIW have suggested for follow up with the Directorate with site visits in the forthcoming year. These are:
- Further identification and support for carers.
 - Short break provision for children with a disability.
 - Recording of adult protection risk management.
 - Statutory visits and reviews for looked after children.
 - Waiting times for an adaptation.
- 3.06 There are a small number of improvement priorities identified in the evaluation, and the action we have taken to address these will be set out in the Director's Annual Report for 2012, which is currently being produced.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 Social & Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee receives this report for information.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 There are no resource implications as a direct consequence of this report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

- 6.01 None.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.01 None.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 None.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None reported.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 None

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 None.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

- Annual Performance Report for Social Services 2011 (Director's Overview)
- Annual Council Performance Evaluation for 2011-12 by the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales.

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