

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

DATE: **MONDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2013**

REPORT BY: **DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

SUBJECT: **CSSIW ANNUAL REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE 2012/13**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 The Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales (CSSIW) have produced their annual report for Flintshire Social Services. The report relates to performance for 2012/2013.

1.02 This report provides an overview of CSSIW's evaluation of social care in Flintshire.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 CSSIW produce an annual report for every local authority in Wales identifying areas of progress and areas for future improvement

2.02 Flintshire's annual report for 2012/2013 is presented in Appendix A.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 In summary the CSSIW report:

- provides a positive reflection of social services in Flintshire
- recognises the improvement journey that has been delivered
- identifies that the Council is well placed to respond to significant challenges.

3.02 In their report CSSIW recognise that the Council is able to evidence a range of positive outcomes which have been delivered through its strategic transformation of services.

3.03 The report identifies many strengths and areas where sound progress has been delivered. Specific strengths in Adult Services include:

- the emphasis on prevention with more people able to lead independent lives
- the success of the reablement service in helping people regain independence

- our recovery approach to supporting people with mental health needs
- the development of extra care with purpose built dementia apartments

3.04 Specific strengths in Children Services include:

- a significant range of national indicators remaining amongst the best in Wales
- an effective response to incoming referrals
- good performance in fulfilling responsibilities relating to child protection and looked after children
- good support to young people leaving care and improved access to accommodation

3.05 The identification of these strengths reflects the strategic and operational investment that has taken place in developing a service model that aims to reduce dependency and support more people to live independent lives. The report identifies that this is underpinned by strong leadership and clear vision.

3.06 Within the context of the current economic climate, welfare changes and demographic pressures the report describes the Council as being 'forward looking and innovative' and 'increasingly realistic about how to prepare for new demands and shifting public expectations'.

3.07 The report identifies that we have a credible financial plan but recognises the challenge in ensuring that the pace of savings that have been delivered to date are sustainable.

3.08 To help ensure that our medium term financial plan is sustainable we have established a programme board to modernise social care with an ambition to deliver a lean, efficient and effective programme of services that are cost effective and well placed to respond to pressures. This work forms and integral part of the wider organisational approach to delivering value for money and achieving financial efficiencies.

3.09 The CSSIW evaluation provides a balanced assessment and identifies areas for improvement as well as strengths and good practice.

3.10 Positively the areas for improvement that are identified within the report are areas we are aware of and have arrangements in place to address. For example adult safeguarding is an area identified for further improvement and we have already instigated action. Our progress has been assessed by internal audit and an associated report has been presented to Social and Health Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee (24th October 2013).

3.11 As part of their evaluation CSSIW have identified three potential risks

for the authority. The risks relate to:

- the sustainability of our medium term financial plan (see 3.08)
- securing robust outcomes in adult safeguarding (see 3.10)
- our ability to influence locality focused strategic planning with Besti Cadwaladar University Health Board (BCUHB).

3.12 Our assessment is that we have appropriate control measures in place to manage and mitigate the risks identified by CSSIW and no additional action is required.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 Members are asked to note CSSIW's evaluation of performance.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 Not applicable. Management actions and controls to respond to areas for improvement and risks are in place and no additional financial resources are required.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.00 None arising from this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.00 None arising from this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 None arising from this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None arising from this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None arising from this report.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 None arising from this report.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Appendix A – CSSIW Annual review and Evaluation of Performance 2012/2013

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

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