

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 9TH OCTOBER 2017

REFERENCE FROM HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE: 11TH SEPTEMBER 2017

“REPORT OF THE CHIEF INSPECTOR’S ANNUAL PERFORMANCE
EVALUATION OF THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN SOCIAL SERVICES
DEPARTMENT 2016-2017 (DSS) -

The Director of Social Services presented the report, the purpose of which was to update the Scrutiny Committee on the Chief Inspector’s Annual Performance Evaluation of the Vale of Glamorgan’s Social Services Department for 2016/17.

The Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) inspects all Local Authorities regarding the way in which they deliver their statutory Social Services functions. The inspection and review activity covers all aspects of social care within a Local Authority, i.e. adult and children services. It was informed by and helped to validate the annual self-assessment of services undertaken by Directors of Social Services in accordance with the Annual Council Reporting Framework (ACRF).

The report containing the overall evaluation of the Council’s Social Services performance by CSSIW had been published and was attached at Appendix 1. This provided evidence about what Inspectors identified as areas of progress and areas for development.

In their findings, Inspectors reported positive progress in a number of key areas. It was recognised that the review of the structure of Social Services would make the authority more responsive to the change in business needs and the implementation of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act.

Progress with regard to the implementation of the Social Services Wellbeing Act was also recognised as the service moved towards an outcome focussed approach. It was recognised that Council staff had undertaken training in better conversations to support the provision of information, advice and assistance in both children and adult services.

The report also acknowledged that there was good partnership working with the University Health Board and Cardiff Social Services Department. Also it acknowledged that the Local Authority had invested additional resources to reduce delayed transfers of care from hospital.

The report also set out the considerable progress made in areas for improvement following last year's evaluation. There were also new areas of challenge which included the impact of the National Living Wage and competition from neighbouring authorities which had made the domiciliary care market difficult to manage,

It was also highlighted that there had been an increase in the number of people using direct payments which had helped meet demand and improve outcomes and choices for people.

The CSSIW concluded that there was a good understanding of the Authority's safeguarding responsibility and all Members had been provided with training as part of their induction.

In 2017/18, the CSSIW aims for inspection, engagement and performance review were as follows:

- support provided for people with mental health needs with a focus on Community Mental Health teams
- placement decisions for Looked After Children.

Having considered the report, the Committee

RECOMMENDED -

(1) T H A T the key messages to emerge from the evaluation, including areas of progress and areas for improvement be noted.

(2) T H A T the key messaged to emerge from the evaluation, including areas of progress and areas for improvement be referred to Cabinet for its consideration.

Reason for recommendations

(1&2) To ensure that Elected Members are kept informed about outcomes from independent evaluation of Social Services performance in the Vale of Glamorgan.”

Attached as Appendix – [Report to Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee: 11 September 2017](#)