

MEETING	The Council
DATE	23 June 2022
TITLE	The Annual Report of the Statutory Director of Social Services 2021-22
PURPOSE	To submit the report for the attention of Council Members
AUTHOR	Morwena Edwards, Statutory Director of Social Services and Corporate Director

1. Background

- 1.1. At the end of each financial year, every Statutory Director of Social Services is required to provide and publish a report regarding the performance of Social Services within the local authority during the previous year.
- 1.2. The purpose of the annual report is to note the local authority's journey towards improvement in providing services to people in their areas, to those who receive information, advice and assistance, the individuals and the carers who receive care and support. Under the requirements of the new Social Services and Well-being Act, the report must demonstrate how local authorities have promoted well-being and have been accountable for presenting well-being standards.
- 1.3. As Director, I am required to consider the range of information and experiences that affect the ability of the Council's Social Services to provide reliable, sustainable services of the highest quality, and to express my opinion in the report and present it to the Council.
- 1.4. The report draws attention to any lessons learnt, and outlines the priorities for the year to come. It also explains how we assessed people's needs, and included them at the centre as we shaped our services and care provision.
- 1.5. The performance of Gwynedd's Social Services is good on the whole this year once again. Being able to declare this during a year that has been so challenging is a sincere pleasure, and reflects the commitment and resilience of our care and social work staff here in Gwynedd. It is obvious from the performance reported here that managers and staff have made a heroic effort to be able to cope with the demands that have been on them during the year.
- 1.6. As outlined in the report, we have also faced significant challenges, and we certainly have key issues that require attention on a local, regional and national level. Our workers and care providers have faced huge challenges throughout the period in question, including the recruitment and retention of front-line staff, financial sustainability, paying a fair wage to workers and ensuring suitable placements for the county's residents. These matters contribute to the challenge of continuing to provide care, and seeking to ensure the best care for the people

of Gwynedd is a priority for me as a Statutory Director, and to the Council as a whole. As a result, we are working hard, jointly with our key partners, to seek to ensure that appropriate services are available locally, in line with our population needs assessments. This is the case about the children and adults fields alike.

- 1.7. The performance of relevant services is challenged in accordance with the Council's internal procedures, and reports on this performance are presented by the relevant Cabinet members at regular intervals. An overview of the services' performance for the whole year will also be available in the Gwynedd Council Performance Report for 2021-22.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. The Council is requested to accept the report submitted by the authority's Statutory Director for Social Services.

3. Views of the Statutory Officers

The Monitoring Officer:

Presenting the report to the full Council provides an opportunity to consider the work and challenges which faces the Social Services from the perspective of the Statutory Director. I am satisfied with the propriety of the report.

Head of Finance Department:

I believe that the annual report is a fair reflection of the activities of the Social Services for 2021/22. I am satisfied that the approval of this annual report will not involve any additional financial commitment from the Council.