



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

19th February 2025

**Report of the Director of Social Services, Health & Housing –
Andrew Jarrett**

SECTION A – MATTER FOR DECISION

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is for Members to note the work undertaken throughout Social Services and to adopt the Director's Annual Report 2023-24.

Background

The purpose of the annual report is to set out the local authority's improvement journey in providing services to people in their areas, those who access information, advice and assistance, and those individuals and carers in receipt of care and support. Under the new requirements of the Social Services and Well-being (SSWB) Act, the report needs to demonstrate how local authorities have promoted wellbeing and accounted for the delivery of well-being standards.

The former reporting requirements for Directors of Social Services in part 6 of the “Statutory Guidance on the Role and Accountabilities of the Director of Social Services” (Welsh Government June 2009) have been replaced as a consequence of both the SSWB and Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016.

The requirements are that every local authority must produce an annual report on the discharge of its social services functions and the report must include:

- an evaluation of the performance in delivering social services functions for the past year including lessons learned (Part 8 Code on the role of the director);
- how the local authority has achieved the six quality standards for well-being outcomes (in a code about measuring social services performance made under s145 of the SSWB Act 2014);
- qualitative and quantitative data relating to the achievement of well-being outcomes (also set out in the code on measuring performance);
- the extent to which the local authority has met requirements under Parts 3 and 4 of the SSWB Act as set out in separate codes covering assessing needs and meeting needs;
- objectives for promoting the well-being of people needing care and support and carers needing support for the following year including those identified by population needs assessments under section 14 of the SSWB Act;
- assurances concerning:
 - structural arrangements enabling good governance and strong accountability;
 - effective partnership working via Partnership Boards;
 - safeguarding arrangements;
- the local authority’s performance in handling and investigating complaints
- responses to any inspections of its social services functions and an update on Welsh language provision;

- how the local authority has engaged people (including children) in the production of the report.

Financial Impact

Not applicable.

Integrated Impact Assessment

There is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment as this report is for adoption of the Director's Annual Report.

Valleys Communities Impacts

No implications.

Workforce Impacts

No implications.

Legal Impacts

No implications.

Risk Management Impacts

No implications.

Crime and Disorder Impacts

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on the Council in the exercise of its functions to have "due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent:

- a) Crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); and
- b) The misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area; and
- c) Re-offending the area"

There is no impact under the Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Impacts

Section 2(1) of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 introduced a general duty where a person exercising relevant functions must have regard (along with all other relevant matters) to the need to remove or minimise any factors which:

- (a) increase the risk of violence against women and girls, or
- (b) exacerbate the impact of such violence on victims.

The proposals contained in this report are likely to have no impact on the above duty.

Consultation

There is no requirement under the constitution for consultation on this item.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members note and endorse the Director's Annual Report 23-24 as detailed in Appendix 1 to the circulated report for commending to Council for approval.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

To ensure Neath Port Talbot Social Services meet the requirements that every local authority must produce an annual report on the discharge of its social services functions.

Implementation of Decision

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three-day call-in period.

Appendices

Director's Annual Report 2023-24 – Appendix 1.

List of Background Papers

No additional papers required.

Officer Contract

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