

SUBJECT:	Annual Director's Report 2025 / 2026, Social Care Safeguarding and Health
MEETING:	Performance & Overview Scrutiny Committee
DATE:	29th September 2026
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	All

1. PURPOSE:

To present the Annual Report 2025/26 from the Strategic Director for Social Care, Safeguarding and Health to Performance & Overview Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

For the Committee Members to scrutinise the report prior to its presentation at full Council in November 2026 and provide comment and feedback.

3. KEY ISSUES:

3.1 Preparing and publishing an annual report of the Statutory Director of Social Services is a requirement under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act (2014). The report is required to show how social care in Monmouthshire meets the requirements of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act and the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016. The Welsh Government template and guidance for completing the report is here:

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2025-03/local-authority-social-services-annual-report-additional-guidance-2025.pdf>

3.2 This is the fifth Director's Report from the current Director and reflects activity within the financial year April 2025 – March 2026.

3.3 The overall purpose of the report is:

- To evaluate progress against our social care priorities during the year.
- To provide Members and residents with an evaluation of social care and health services, looking at how we are making a difference in people's lives and our performance against key metrics.

- To provide an analysis of the ways in which the current operating context is impacting on services and to identify key risks and challenges.
- To inform Members and residents about how our services meet the standards and requirements under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act (2014).
- To set out actions and priorities for 2026 – 2027.

3.4 In accordance with the guidance the report is set out using the following headings:

i. Director's Summary

ii. Context

- Leadership
- Workforce
- Finance Resources

iii. Performance and Assessment

- People
- Prevention
- Partnership & Integration
- Wellbeing

iv. Other Information

- Inspection & Reviews
- Complaints & Representations
- Other Sources of Information

v. Glossary

3.5 The report has been written with involvement from the service and contributions from the workforce using case studies relating to their work with people. Qualitative and quantitative performance data, self-evaluation and case material is combined to describe many aspects of the service. The report provides information related to the wider operating context where relevant. This annual process is an opportunity to reflect on the overall direction of the service, what is going well as well as the further actions we need to take in order to develop and improve.

4. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS (INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING)

4.1 The report provides an appraisal of performance of the directorate's work with children, older people and people with disabilities or ill health. It identifies future priorities and how services might be developed to better support vulnerable people and people with protected characteristics. The report identifies the contribution social services to the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act, particularly with regards to prevention and working in partnership.

4.2 The report provides analysis of performance and priorities related to safeguarding and Corporate Parenting, with regard to the work that is undertaken with children who are looked after and care experienced young people.

5. OPTION APPRAISAL:

N/A

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA:

6.1 The report provides a comprehensive analysis of the performance of Social Care & Health Services in 2025/26. The report draws on a range of evidence, including the performance indicators from the measurement framework under the Social Services and Well-being Act, alongside case material and qualitative evidence.

7. REASONS:

7.1 It is a legal requirement for the Statutory Director to publish an annual report.

7.2 To ensure that elected members, colleagues, and members of the public have the opportunity to scrutinise the Director's evaluation of the performance and impact of Social Services in 2025/26.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

8.1 None specific to this report.

8.2 The Annual Report sets out the financial context of social care and health and the outturn positions for 2025/26 for Children's and Adults' Services. The report identifies the financial context and the challenges of financial sustainability for the coming year and beyond in meeting the costs of social care services against the backdrop of reducing budgets and increasing demand for care and support.

9. CONSULTEES:

- Cllr Ian Chandler, Lead Member for Social Care and Health Directorate
- Jenny Jenkins, Head of Adult Services
- Diane Corrister, Head of Children's Services

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None

11. AUTHOR:

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