

Cyngor Sir Powys / Powys County Council
Health, Care and Housing Scrutiny Committee
21st June, 2018

REPORT AUTHOR: Scrutiny Manager and Head of Democratic Services

SUBJECT: Draft Social Services Annual Report

REPORT FOR: **Committee Briefing**

1. Background.

1.1 The report of the Director of Social Services sets out an overview or “state of the nation” picture of Social Services in Powys for the year 2017 to 2018. It is not a detailed assessment or review of the service.

1.2 The role of scrutiny in commenting on the Draft Annual Report:

Does Not include challenging what’s included or not included in the report.
The content of the report is for the Director of Social Services to decide.

Does Include:

“What did we plan to do last year?”

- These should be the priorities set in the 2016-17 report together with any new priorities – this should be cross referenced to the previous Director’s report.
- Have baseline targets been set – i.e. has Social Services identified what “good” or “improvement” will look like? (This may not be appropriate in all cases)

“How far did we succeed and what difference did we make”

- Is each of the priority items listed under “What did we plan to do last year?” included in the detail?
- Is there statistical or other evidence to demonstrate that a difference has been made? An example would be a comparison percentage figure between 2016-17 and 2017-18.
- Does the evidence presented stack up in terms of the determination as to whether the project has been successful / a difference has been made?
- If items are identified in the text which would fall into a “To be Done” category – are these included in the “Priorities for next year” list. If not why?
- Are there any positive impacts which scrutiny should commend or suggest as good practice (**Note – scrutiny is about highlighting the positives as well as the negatives**)
- The Committee should approach this asking the “So What” question – work has been undertaken – So what improvement has been made and

how is that claim justified / what difference has been made to our customers?

- Is the change positive or negative? If the change is negative was there an assessment done by the service that this could happen – Is it as bad as expected or worse? What is the service doing to mitigate the impact? Is it to be addressed in the following year's priorities?

“What are our priorities for next year and why?”

- Are any “To Do” items in the “How far did we succeed and what difference did we make” section of the report included? If not why?
- Do the priorities flow from the “How far did we succeed and what difference did we make” section – are the links clear?

General Comments from the Committee:

- Is the report balanced – does it show a realistic picture of good and bad elements without focussing too heavily on either the good or the bad?
- If Members have received comments from constituents about individual Social Services received, can you relate their experience to the picture of the service being presented in the report?
- Is the service “selling itself short” i.e. not including evidence which could show a more positive outcome – is the service being too self critical?
- Does the report have enough evidence to support the statements being made or is it too descriptive?
- Does the report flow between the sections and information links clear i.e. are the “Priorities for the year” picked up in the “How far did we succeed” section and do the outcomes link to the “Priorities for next year” section?