

## Improvement audit and assessment 2015-16

### **Improvement plan audit**

Audit of discharge of duty to publish an improvement plan.

Timing – Report issued in May 2015.

### **Assessment of performance audit**

Audit of discharge of duty to publish an assessment of performance.

Timing – Report due in November 2015.

### **Financial management review**

Further work on financial management arrangements following up our 2014-15 review, and looking forward to 2016-17 budget setting and savings proposals. There will also be a focus on reserves position, policy and use of reserves.

Timing – June to September 2015.

### **Governance review**

This work will focus on areas identified as being in need of improvement in the Corporate Assessment report.

Timing – July 2015 to March 2016.

### **Performance management review**

Study across North Wales on benchmarking social services costs against performance. This will include CSSIW involvement.

Timing – April to October 2015. **Fieldwork is timed for August to September 2015.**

### **Locally determined review(s)**

Follow-up of aspects identified as being in need of improvement in the Corporate Assessment report.

Timing – July 2015 to March 2016. **This will stem from the Corporate Assessment.**

### **Annual Improvement Report**

Annual summary and assessment by the Auditor General and other regulators.

Timing – December 2015 to March 2016.

### Local Government studies 2015-16 – These are LG studies chosen from the consultation

#### **The strategic approach of councils to income generation and charging**

Under theme of 'delivering with less', this study will involve an audit of councils' strategic approach to charging, the approval process for setting and reviewing charging and the impact of charging on services and on service users.

#### **Council funding of third-sector services**

Also under the theme of 'delivering with less', this study will:

- examine the level of investment in voluntary sector services to benchmark findings against earlier assessments;
- review the measures used to judge the effectiveness of funding in a 'tracer' area; and
- review decision-making processes to determine whether the principles of good governance in funding third sector services are being followed.

#### **The effectiveness of local community safety partnerships**

This study examines the effectiveness of community safety partnerships and the impact of the work of partnerships in delivering improvement within their communities.

Timing for all to be confirmed.

### Improvement audit and assessment for 2014-15

#### **Corporate Assessment 2014-15**

The assessment is complete and report in draft with a view to publishing the report in July 2015. Feedback has been provided to SLT, Cabinet and Shadow Cabinet members.

#### **Review of Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Service Board**

The review is complete, report finalised and published. The LSB received feedback on 31 March..

#### **Housing Benefit Assessment**

The review looks at the management, customer focus, decision-making and oversight of Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) monies and is primarily a desktop analysis of key documentation. The outputs will be a short national summary updating our position statement on DHP in 2013-14 and a short summary for inclusion in the Annual Improvement Report on current performance for each council. **For Anglesey, this will be included in the corporate assessment report.**

### Local Government studies 2014-15

#### Impact of Welfare Reform on social housing

Published 8 January 2015. The report is available at <https://www.wao.gov.uk/publication/managing-impact-welfare-reform-changes-social-housing-tenants-wales>

#### Safeguarding arrangements

Report to be published late June 2015.

#### Financial resilience of councils in Wales

Published 2 April 2015. The report is available at <https://www.wao.gov.uk/publication/financial-resilience-councils-wales>

#### Independence of Older People

The fieldwork is due to be completed by March 31 2015 dependent upon outstanding information being provided by councils. The provisional date for publication is July/August 2015.

#### Delivering with less leisure services

The fieldwork is due to be completed by March 31 2015 dependent upon outstanding information being provided by councils. The provisional date for publication is August/September 2015.

### Good practice

In line with the Auditor General's commitment to identify and share good practice, he will continue to host shared learning seminars, identify relevant case studies and focus work on identifying and promoting effective practice. Public bodies receive notification and invites in advance of the events. Forthcoming events can be accessed on the Wales Audit Office's website.

<https://www.wao.gov.uk/forthcoming-events/Shared-Learning-Seminar>

### Other regulators

Joint work with CSSIW across North Wales on benchmarking social services costs against performance.

Estyn has no plans to review Anglesey. However, Estyn is completing a thematic review of the regional school improvement service (GwE) across North Wales.

### Other reports

The Auditor General is conducting a study into the management of coastal flooding and erosion as part of his annual programme of value-for-money studies. The study will focus on the over-arching question: Is the Welsh Government, in partnership with key stakeholders, making the progress needed to manage the risks of coastal flooding and erosion? To answer that question, we are asking a set of sub-questions, to test: whether the Welsh Government's strategic approach to coastal flooding and erosion is fit for the future; and whether the Welsh Government is managing its programme effectively to achieve its intended outcomes. The work will consist mostly of completion of a detailed survey and questionnaire. Reporting date to be confirmed.