

Scrutiny Report



Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Part 1

Date: 22 March 2018

Subject Corporate Safeguarding

Author Overview and Scrutiny Officer

The following people have been invited to attend for this item:

Invitee	Title
Mary Ryan	Corporate Safeguarding Manager
Sally Ann Jenkins	Head of Children and Young Peoples Services

Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

1 Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked to

1. Consider the Annual Corporate Safeguarding report, to scrutinise and review the progress of the key priority work plans for both corporate safeguarding arrangements and the safeguarding specific teams.
2. Determine if it wishes to make any comment / recommendations to Cabinet regarding the report and the how the Council is managing corporate safeguarding.

2 Context

Background

- 2.1 Safeguarding, whether concerning children or adults is of paramount importance and accordingly occupies a high priority within the Council's services.
- 2.2 Hitherto, reports on aspects of safeguarding responsibilities of the Council have been reported in the past to a joint Committee or individual Committees whom the relevant safeguarding matters relate to. This has been programmed for scrutiny on a regular basis annually.

- 2.3 Safeguarding is a complex topic in so far as safeguarding responsibilities are present in all aspects of Council Services and external life activities. The theme of safeguarding is therefore present in all aspects of Council Services, functions and duties. Due to the overarching corporate significance the Corporate Safeguarding and relating Individual Teams Key Priority Plans are being brought to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.
- 2.4 This report combines the relevant portfolio areas for Committees with scrutiny safeguarding roles and enables the topic of safeguarding across the spectrum to be addressed at the same time.
- 2.5 The report firstly seeks to make Members aware of the scope and detail of the Council's safeguarding services and role of the Committees at the Joint Meeting will be to monitor the performance of each element of the services provided and to comment on planned activity for the coming period. In order to plan for the theme of "safeguarding" becoming fundamentally embedded within all aspects of council services.,
- 2.6 In order to maintain and improve understanding of the services provided and roles associated with safeguarding, as Councillors and Scrutiny Members specifically, Members are also asked to endorse the planning and future provision of suitable training through a range of opportunities.

Previous Consideration of Corporate Safeguarding

- 2.7 In the previous term, the issue of Corporate Safeguarding was considered through a joint meeting of the Learning, Caring and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Community, Planning and Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.8 The Scrutiny Committee's had a Joint meeting in November 2016, which was to present the Annual report on Corporate Safeguarding, covering safeguarding and Corporate safeguarding arrangements and an update on the Safeguarding Unit Team plans. At this meeting the Committee agreed to monitor on an annual basis.
- 2.9 The annual update on Safeguarding is scheduled on the work programme of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee for March this year. As Scrutiny is not a decision making forum, the Scrutiny Committee's review and subsequent comments / recommendations on this matter will be reported to the Cabinet for consideration and action.
- 2.10 As Elected Members, and Scrutiny Members, the Committee has an important role in considering the arrangements that the Council has in place for Safeguarding, Corporately and for those in direct contact with vulnerable groups.

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

- 3.1 Attached at **Appendix 1** is the Annual Corporate Safeguarding update. This report provides key information on the topic of "safeguarding" for members and provides information on how well the council is achieving on its safeguarding arrangements.
- 3.2 The Report is split into two separate parts;

Part One - "Safeguarding" and corporate safeguarding arrangements:

This part focusses on the theme of safeguarding, providing essential information to inform Members understanding of "safeguarding" and how this increases the Corporate responsibility covering:

- What is "safeguarding"?
- Safeguarding in a legislative and policy context
- What are our corporate responsibilities regarding safeguarding?
- Corporate Safeguarding Action Plan (2018/2019) - Key Priorities/ Themes for Corporate Safeguarding (2018/2019)

Part Two - Safeguarding Unit Individual Teams Key Priority Plans

This part presents the key priority work plans for each team incorporated within the Council's Safeguarding Unit and invites scrutiny and reflection upon the work being undertaken to ensure effective safeguarding arrangements are in place for children and adults in Newport. This covers:

- Newport Safeguarding Unit Structure;
- Individual Teams Key Priority Plans for;
 - Child Sexual Exploitation;
 - Child Protection;
 - Safeguarding in Education;
 - Quality Assurance (Children's Service);
 - Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.

4. Suggested Areas of Focus

Role of the Committee

The role of the Committee in considering the report is to:

- Establish whether associated key priorities and themes are appropriately addressed within the Action Plan (2018/2019) and planned actions are geared to meet the objectives within the timescale concerned.
- Determine whether there are any perceived areas of practice where objectives are not effectively addressed or met (both Corporate or within specific work plans of the Safeguarding Unit)
- Consider whether the structure for the Newport Safeguarding Unit Structure and Individual Teams Key Priority Plans is appropriate to meet the Council's responsibilities for safeguarding matters.
- Consider whether an adequate monitoring and performance management framework and measures are in place to ensure an appropriate level of management on an ongoing basis and to consider possible arrangements for the Committee to implement.
- Consider the level of planning and future provision of suitable training through a range of opportunities for Members in their roles as Councillors and Members of Scrutiny Committees.

4.1 Suggested Lines of Enquiry

The following broad lines of enquiry have been adapted from the Centre for Public Scrutiny / Improvement and Development Agency 'Safeguarding Children Scrutiny Guide' as areas to consider when thinking about safeguarding both children and adults:

4.1.1 Partnership Working:

- Is the relationship between the Council and the Regional Safeguarding Boards (SEWSCB; GWASB; VAWDASVB) clear and working effectively to improve outcomes for children and adults?
- Scrutiny arrangements - Is the Scrutiny Committee for Partnerships aware of all relevant partnerships and are they included on their Forward Work Programme?

4.1.2 **Quality and Performance:**

- Is there evidence that learning from the regional boards leads to service improvement at system and frontline practitioner level? For example, how embedded and integrated is the learning following Child Practice Reviews/ Adult Practice Reviews to local practice within Newport Social Services?
- How is the Council and the Regional Safeguarding Boards gathering and using the experiences of children, young people and families to inform improvements to safeguarding arrangements?
- Is there a robust assessment process in place for both children and adults who may have care and support needs and are outcomes well understood?

4.1.3 **Practice:**

- Are universal services supporting vulnerable children well and are there adequate and effective early intervention or prevention services in place for children and families? What safeguards are there to protect children and families from inappropriate child protection interventions?
- Are services reaching the most vulnerable groups e.g. children with disabilities, children in families affected by substance misuse, domestic violence or parental mental illness and children from refugee and asylum seeking communities?
- Do all Care and Support Plans contain specific, achievable, focussed outcomes intended to safeguard and promote the well-being of the person?
- Are these plans measurable and are those care and support plans for children identified in need of protection independently reviewed?
- What is the quality and frequency of supervision and training given to frontline staff? Does supervision routinely address safeguarding practice and performance?
- Role of Members – is the role for Members clear, and accountable?

Section B – Supporting Information

5 Supporting Information

5.1 The Corporate Safeguarding report included a number of attachments for information purposes; these have been included as a supplementary document online and can be found (here):

1. 'Overview of Safeguarding' Members training
2. Newport City Council Safeguarding Statement (October 2017)
3. Newport City Council Safeguarding Child Protection Policy and Procedure (October 2017)
4. Newport City Council Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy and Procedure (October 2017)
5. Newport City Council Safeguarding in Education Child Protection Policy (2017)
6. Safeguarding Champion Briefing (2017)

6. Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Well-being Objectives	Promote economic growth and regeneration whilst protecting the environment	Improve skills, educational outcomes & employment opportunities	Enable people to be healthy, independent & resilient	Build cohesive & sustainable communities
Corporate Plan Commitments	Thriving City	Aspirational People		Resilient Communities
Supporting Function	Modernised Council			

7 Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

7.1 General questions

- What evidence is provided to demonstrate WFGA has been / is being considered?
- Is there evidence of links to Wellbeing Plan?
- How are the Wellbeing goals reflected in the policy / proposal / action?
 - *A prosperous Wales*
 - *A resilient Wales*
 - *A healthier Wales*
 - *A more equal Wales*
 - *A Wales of cohesive communities*
 - *A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language*
 - *A globally responsible Wales*
- Does the update on Corporate Safeguarding demonstrate how as an authority we are working in accordance with the sustainable development principles from the act when planning services?
 - Long Term -** *The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs*
 - Prevention -** *How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives*
 - Integration -** *Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies*
 - Collaboration -** *Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives*
 - Involvement -** *The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.*

8. Background Papers

- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Corporate Plan](#)
- [Centre for Public Scrutiny \(CfPS\) Practice Guide – Safeguarding Children](#)
- Learning, Caring and Leisure Scrutiny Committee (15 April 2015)
- Joint meeting of the Learning Caring and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Community Planning and Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee – November 2016.

Report Completed: 8 March 2018