

Safeguarding Overview Training for Members

September 2017



Objectives of the Safeguarding Overview Training

- Members will be provided with a broad overview on the topic of “Safeguarding”;
- Members will be advised of the council’s legal and corporate requirements in respect of “Safeguarding” ;
- Members will be advised of the current safeguarding arrangements for Newport City Council and areas of future planning/ development will be highlighted;
- Members will be consulted on receiving training on specific safeguarding topics (ie. Child sexual exploitation; Modern Day Slavery; etc.) as part of a rolling programme throughout the forthcoming year.

Members should note that they will be introduced to headline work identified within the Corporate Safeguarding Report and the work of the Safeguarding Unit, however, detailed scrutiny of this work will remain with the appropriate committee.

What is “Safeguarding”?

Safeguarding means protecting people’s health, wellbeing and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect (Care Quality Commission, 2014).

Abuse can be intentional or unintentional; active or passive; part of a pattern of behaviour or a single incident. Abuse is any form of physical, sexual, emotional/ psychological mistreatment or lack of care (Neglect) that leads to injury, harm, or potential risk of harm. Abuse can happen to anyone regardless of their age, race, gender or ability and it can happen anywhere – in the home, at school, during leisure activities, in an institution or community setting by those known to them (including family members and professionals) or, more rarely, by a stranger.

Safeguarding is about protecting children and adults from abuse or neglect and educating those around them to recognise the signs and dangers.

Safeguarding is a balance of prevention and protection.

Types of Abuse

Physical abuse

- Hitting, shaking, pushing, kicking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, punching, biting, deliberate burns, stabbing, strangulation, unnecessary or inappropriate restraint and other forms of assault.
- Medical mistreatment such as withholding or inappropriately altering or administering medication or other treatments, and fabricating the symptoms of or deliberately inducing illness.

Psychological or emotional abuse

- Deprivation of social contact or deliberate isolation.
- Overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning.
- Being made to feel worthless or inadequate.
- Humiliation, blaming, verbal abuse.
- Lack of privacy or choice.
- Use of coercion, using threats or fears to over-ride a person's wishes.
- Treating an adult as if they were a child.
- Witnessing significant harm to another- including a child witnessing/ being exposed to domestic abuse.

Sexual abuse or exploitation

- Involves forcing or coercing a vulnerable individual to take part in sexual activities including prostitution, whether or not they are aware of what is happening.
- This may include non-contact activities such as watching or producing online images and watching sexual activities or encouraging children and vulnerable adults to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

‘The coercion or manipulation of children and young people into taking part in sexual activities’ is a form of sexual abuse involving an exchange of some form of payment which can include money, mobile phones and other items such as drugs, alcohol, a place to stay, ‘protection’, or affection.’

Neglect

- Failure to meet basic physical care needs – to provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment).
- Deprivation of necessary personal and medical care, which can result in the impairment of health and / or development.
- Failure to protect from physical harm or danger.
- Failure to protect from emotional harm.
- Failure to provide access to appropriate medical care or treatment and/or removal of aids to daily living.
- Being unresponsive to basic emotional needs.
- Failure to ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care givers).
- During pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse.
- For vulnerable adults, it includes self neglect of basic health and care needs and failure to give information about sexual and reproductive health.

Financial abuse or exploitation

- Stealing money or property.
- Deceiving or manipulating a person out of money or property.
- Withholding or misusing money or property.
- Stripping a person of their assets.
- Exploitation of dependence for personal gain.
- Misuse of benefits by others.

Domestic abuse

- Defined as any incident of threatening or coercive behaviour, violence or abuse (whether physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, financial or verbal) that occurs between parties where there is or was an intimate relationship.
- Occurs across the whole of society regardless of age, gender, race, marital status, religion, sexual orientation, or whether they have a disability and can occur in any type of relationship, such as marriage/civil partner, former marriage/ civil partner, former/current boyfriend/ girlfriend, family or former family members, extended family or former extended family members, including siblings and young person to parent and any form of cohabitation.
- Can affect adults and children and includes direct abuse, threats of being abused or the impact of witnessing abuse.
- Includes crimes committed in the name of so called 'honour', forced marriage and female genital mutilation.
- Includes persistent coercion and controlling behaviour, where the perpetrator seeks power over the victim.
- Includes crimes of stalking and harassment.

Discriminatory abuse

- Racist, sexist, or homophobic abuse, abuse relating to age, disability or illness.
- Acts or comments, including incitement to others to commit abuse.

* NB. This is NOT an exhaustive list

Child Protection- Types of Abuse

There are 4 categories of abuse used for registration purposes on the Child Protection Register, these are:

- **Physical Abuse**
- **Sexual Abuse** (this category would include registration regarding child sexual exploitation)
- **Emotional Abuse** (this category would include registration regarding domestic abuse)
- **Neglect**

The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 also identifies “**Financial Abuse/ Exploitation**” as a form of abuse within legislation, although it is acknowledged that this form of abuse may affect a child/ young person it is not currently being used as a specific registration category on the Child Protection Register as any such concerns are likely to be a feature of wider safeguarding risks for the child.

As at 31st March 2017 the number of children identified on Newport’s Child Protection Register was 118.

Neglect 71; Physical 9; Sexual 2; Emotional 32

Dual registration: Neglect & Sexual Abuse 2; Neglect & Physical 2

The consequences/ effects of abuse

The consequences of abuse, particularly on a child, can be devastating and long lasting. These can include:

- Serious injury, even death
- Physical disabilities
- Mental health issues, including poor self esteem; anxiety; depression; self harm and even suicide
- Difficulties at school
- Isolation within society
- Substance misuse as a way of coping
- Poor job prospects/criminal activity
- Poor parenting skills in the future
- Poor relationships, including inability to trust others

Safeguarding Involves Us All

Safeguarding children and adults from abuse is everybody's business. We all share a responsibility, both corporately and individually, to ensure that all children and adults are treated with respect and protected from others who may abuse them.

Safeguarding responsibilities are present in all aspects of Council Services and external life activities.

In recent years, the role of the Local Authority has been extended beyond just specific duties to children and "vulnerable adults" to now also include responsibilities for safeguarding in domestic abuse, exploitation, radicalisation, forced marriage, trafficking and modern slavery.

There are new duties to report in respect of both **Adults and Children** "at risk" under the new SSWB 2014 (Act), if there is reasonable cause to suspect an adult or child is at risk this **must** be reported to the Local Authority. The new definition of an "*Adult at Risk*" broadens the scope for enquiry and intervention beyond the former more exclusive definition of a "*vulnerable adult*".

Legal Framework and Requirements of the SSWB Act- Part 7 Safeguarding

The SSWB (Act) brought in new duties in respect of adults, children and carers.

There is a new duty for all relevant partners of a local authority to report an **adult or child** if they have reasonable cause to suspect that an adult or child is **at risk**.
(Relevant partners are Police, other local authorities, Probation, Local Health Boards and NHS Trusts)

If there is reasonable cause to suspect that an adult is at risk, the LA **must** (new legal duty) make whatever enquiries it thinks necessary to enable it to decide whether any action should be taken, and if so, what and by whom, to protect that adult. The statutory guidance states that the inclusion of “at risk” enables early intervention to protect the adult and the decision to act does not require actual abuse or neglect to have taken place.

What is an “Adult at Risk”?

An adult who;

- Is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect;
- Has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs);
- As a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect, or the risk of it.

The Act also introduced a new legal order in respect of safeguarding adults at risk via the s127 Adult Protection and Support Order (APSO).

Adult Protection and Support Orders (APSO)

Why?- To enable the authorised officer to speak in private with a person suspected of being an adult at risk

- To ascertain whether that person is making decisions freely
- To enable the authorised officer to properly assess whether the person is an adult at risk and to make a decision about any action that should be taken

ASPO's should only be used in exceptional circumstances where other attempts to speak to the adult considered to be at risk have failed. Consideration of other avenues to avoid the requirement of an APSO and the consideration of the human rights implications of acquiring such an order must be met before an order would be granted.

What is a “child at risk”?

- A child (under the age of 18 years) who is experiencing or is at risk of abuse, neglect, or other kinds of harm
- Has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs)

This Act has brought in the new duty for relevant partners of a local authority to report children at risk. The Act then links into the Children Act (1989), s47 inquiry process where these investigations will form an in-depth assessment of the nature of the child's needs and the capacity of his or her parents to meet those needs within the wider family and community context.

Corporate Safeguarding- Duties and Requirements



Safeguarding involves us all

Safeguarding children and adults from abuse is everybody's business.

We all share a responsibility, both corporately and individually, to ensure that all children and adults are treated with respect and protected from others who may abuse them.

“Safeguarding involves us all” was the key headline of the safeguarding campaign launched within Newport City Council in 2014. This campaign highlighted how safeguarding is everybody’s business and identified the responsibilities of all staff and elected members, both corporately and individually, via the suite of safeguarding policies and procedures.

This campaign was in part due to the recommendations made resulting from The Wales Audit Office ‘*Review of Corporate Safeguarding Arrangements in Welsh Councils*’ (October 2014) which found that many of the corporate safeguarding responsibilities within local authorities across Wales were underdeveloped and not well understood. This coupled with the new legal duties of the SSWB Act was the catalyst for the establishment of a Corporate Safeguarding Report for Newport City Council to assure members of the pro-active arrangements which the local authority are under-taking in safeguarding provisions and service planning.

The responsibilities of Newport City Council

- The Council ensures that everyone working with or on behalf of children and adults at risk are competent and appropriate to do so. Newport City Council conducts a robust 'Safer Recruitment Policy and Practice' and Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) disclosures are undertaken for employees in accordance with statutory and regulatory requirements. Checks are also undertaken to ensure that staff, where appropriate, are registered with relevant professional and other bodies e.g. Social Workers and Teachers.
- Safeguarding responsibilities are emphasised for **all** employees, including voluntary staff, elected members and contractors, from the point of recruitment and throughout their employment. There are clear lines of accountability, responsibility and support regarding safeguarding throughout the authority and these are achieved via relevant staff guidance, codes of conduct (including disciplinary procedures) and specific safeguarding policies and procedures which all staff **must** adhere to.
- All employees complete basic safeguarding awareness training and this is completed via the Council's induction programme. Additionally, for those employees whose employment results in them directly coming into contact with children generally and adults who may be identified as "at risk" they must also complete additional safeguarding training proportionate to their role.

- Elected members, led by the lead members for children and for adults, have a responsibility to be aware of and support the Council's safeguarding responsibilities and to scrutinise how these are carried out in the planning and delivery of services.
- Newport City Council ensures that any services commissioned or contracted upon its behalf have clear safeguarding responsibilities, this includes an expectation that any person or organisation using Council resources or premises adheres to the Council's safeguarding standards. In line with the Prevent duty – to stop people becoming involved in terrorist activity or supporting violent extremism in all its forms – the council will ensure it does not work with, or allow its premises to be used by organisations engaged in extremist activity or those that express extremist, hate motivated or discriminatory ideology or beliefs. This is the responsibility of all employees and council members.
- Newport City Council expects all employees to take reasonable steps to ensure that the safety and wellbeing of the children and adults they may come into contact with is upheld and that all employees (paid or voluntary) recognise and respond to their duty of care to these people. This includes a duty to behave in a manner that does not threaten, harm or put people at risk of harm from others. All employees also have a responsibility to conduct themselves in their private lives in a manner that does not compromise their position in the workplace or call in to question their suitability to work with children or vulnerable adults.
- All employees are expected to report any concerns or suspicions they may have for children or adults at risk of harm or abuse.

Current Safeguarding Arrangements for Newport City Council

Named Safeguarding Service Manager responsible for Children, Adults and Education (Mary Ryan).

Named Safeguarding in Education Officer responsible for developing and strengthening safeguarding processes and practices across Local Education Authority and Children's Services (Nicola Davies).

Named Child Sexual Exploitation Lead Officer works in conjunction with local agencies to ensure an effective multi-agency Sexual Exploitation Service is delivered to children, young people and their families in accordance with statutory requirements and in line with both national and local policy, guidance and procedures (Fedelma Williams- Meyer).

Named Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) responsible for managing allegations where there are concerns raised about professionals working with children in Newport- Professionals includes those in paid employment and volunteers, both within statutory settings and in the voluntary sector, and would include any adult in a position of trust (Mike Sloan).

Future Planning for Improved Safeguarding Arrangements identified within the Corporate Safeguarding Report for Newport City Council (2017/2018)

- Implementation of named “Safeguarding Champions” in all council service areas to ensure that the basic principles of safeguarding become embedded into core business and all staff know who to talk to and what to do should they have a concern.
- Newport have agreed and are currently developing the pilot for the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)- implementation in January 2018.
- Establishment of a review/ scrutiny process for Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS) Assessments for Newport citizens and the specific work plan for the process to be added to the Corporate Safeguarding Report for future monitoring from October 2017 onwards.
- Review of how “safeguarding” information is communicated externally to the citizens of Newport in order to ensure our citizens know who to contact for information, advice and assistance and to promote the Council’s commitment to “safeguarding” by effectively communicating essential information and highlighting where changes have been made (ie. Legislation/ policy/ council procedure).

Newport Safeguarding Unit



Each team within the Safeguarding Unit has individual key priorities which are reported upon within the annual Corporate Safeguarding Report presented to Joint Learning, Caring and Leisure and Community Planning and Development Scrutiny Committees.

Collaborative working in Safeguarding

The SSWB Act recognises that effective safeguarding of citizens cannot be achieved in silo by the local authority and re-affirms through this new legislation the requirements and commitments of working collaboratively not only with the person but also with our statutory and relevant partner agencies and third sector services wherever possible.

The council is one partner in the multiagency approach to “Safeguarding” so it is vital that we work collaboratively with other agencies to achieve our safeguarding aims. Newport City Council works pro-actively in collaboration with our partners, the South East Wales Safeguarding Children Board, the Gwent Wide Adult Safeguarding Board, and the Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Board in order to ensure that statutory guidance is followed, safeguarding awareness is promoted, and good practices are enacted council wide and that both the children and adult’s workforces practice safely and effectively.

Additionally, the development and implementation of the MASH also affords greater collaborative working and planning to ensure effective safeguarding arrangements are in place to protect the citizens of Newport.



Specific Safeguarding Training- Proposed topic areas for Members awareness and learning

- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
- Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)- Ask and Act requirements
- Duty to Report- Professional Strategy Meetings
- Roles of Independent Reviewing Officers
- Safeguarding in Education
- Prevent Strategy
- Modern Day Slavery and Trafficking
- Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Any other area requested?