

Report



Report to Cabinet Corporate Safeguarding (2017/2018) Executive Summary

Part 1

Date: 13 February 2019

Item No: 10

Subject **Corporate Safeguarding (2017/2018) Executive Summary**

Purpose To establish an annual corporate safeguarding report which monitors, scrutinises and plans on the theme of “safeguarding” becoming fundamentally embedded within all aspects of Council services, functions and duties.

To provide Scrutiny with essential and key information to build their understanding and knowledge on the topic of “safeguarding” in order to allow them to effectively scrutinise the Council’s safeguarding practice.

To update Cabinet members on the work that has been undertaken to improve arrangements for safeguarding and protecting children and adults who require specific Council services and to ensure that these arrangements are effective.

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Ward N/A

Summary This is the first review of the annual corporate safeguarding report. The original report was established in November 2016 and sought to synthesise the various safeguarding reporting strands into one Corporate Safeguarding report which provides scrutiny information on how well the council is achieving on its safeguarding arrangements. At its meeting on 21 February 2018, the Committee received the full Annual Report on Corporate Safeguarding, the committee requested an executive summary be produced summarising the key areas for consideration, this report was presented to Scrutiny on 21 June 2018 and is now being presented to Cabinet.

The comments of the scrutiny committee from June 2018 are being addressed in detail in the forthcoming Corporate Safeguarding Report (2018/2019) in March 2019.

Proposal To scrutinise and review the progress of the key priority work plans for both corporate safeguarding arrangements and the safeguarding specific teams as identified in 2017/2018.

Action by Sally Jenkins (HOS) Mary Ryan (Service Manager Safeguarding)

Timetable ...

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Cabinet Member for Social Services
- Strategic Director People
- Head of Children and Young People Services
- Head of Finance
- Monitoring Officer
- Head of People and Business Change

Signed *Mary Ryan*

Background

The detailed annual corporate safeguarding report (2017/2018) and the executive summary (2017/2018) report documents have been provided to members for their scrutiny and review. These documents were also presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Board in June 2018 for comments and ratification.

Members' specific comments on future report formatting have been acknowledged and this will be evident in the 2018/2019 report which will be presented to Cabinet on 17 April 2019. The annual report has reduced the amount of "safeguarding" topic information within the body of the report. The report continues to be presented in two parts with part one focusing on corporate safeguarding requirements and part two presenting a combined safeguarding unit action plan comprising of the unit's key priorities.

Members' queries in relation to the roles of the "Safeguarding Champions", "Lead Cabinet Member" and "Strategic Director" in terms of Safeguarding will all be directly addressed in the 2018/2019 annual report in the "Planned developments to enhance safeguarding within Newport" section (Functions of Key Officers).

Members concerns regarding the communication methods currently being used with the public predominantly focusses on web based platforms has been acknowledged, it is recognised that other methods of communication including Newport Matters; leaflets; and disseminating via partner agencies are all avenues which must be considered and utilised but it is also respectfully reminded that there are also legal requirements under the new legislation and regulations that we must provide certain information in web based formats and this is often the most accessible and easily developed form of communication. In the forthcoming annual report (2018/2019) the action plan considers how communicating safeguarding information with the citizens of Newport can be more effectively managed and disseminated.

Member's requests to receive further information in relation to Safeguarding training for staff and members is acknowledged and is a detailed on-going objective of the Part one action plan. Member awareness raising and training scheduled will be agreed and timetabled with the Leader's approval. Further updates on the planned developments and progress that will be achieved will be provided in the forthcoming 2018/2019 annual report.

Financial Summary

- The costs for the full council to take on the safeguarding proposals across each service will not incur or require additional finances. Each directorate will be taking on the safeguarding awareness raising for employees and Newport citizens for their own service area. The safeguarding agenda for immediate protection for citizens remains with Social Services for Adults and Children within agreed budgets.

Risks

The risks for the Council by not accepting this proposal have been raised within the Welsh Audit Office recommendations as an area that requires development across the Corporate agenda. The risks identified are to ensure that employees and citizens of Newport are services by a knowledgeable staff group that understands and are aware of their duty to report safeguarding concerns that they come across in delivering services on behalf of the council and knowing how to protect vulnerable citizens. The risks for citizens will be minimised by ensuring the Council is a responsible and accountable Local to all safeguarding issues in the community and within the work place.

You will need to complete the following Risk table

Risk	Impact of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)	Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)	What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect	Who is responsible for dealing with the risk?
Corporate Safeguarding not extended outside of People directorate	M	L	<p>Introduce safeguarding agenda across all service areas.</p> <p>Provide information through regular local network meetings.</p> <p>Address SG issues when they arise within service areas.</p> <p>Introduce safeguarding champion network for Council staff.</p> <p>Champions to disseminate SG awareness and updates within own service areas.</p> <p>Duty to report and legislative requirements supported for all employees</p>	<p>Mary Ryan Safeguarding Lead for the Council.</p> <p>Any risks identified will be addressed with specific Head of Service</p>

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

This proposal directly enhances the Councils priorities and plans within all Corporate services. The Council safeguarding statement clearly sets out the expectations on all who deliver services on behalf of the Council;

“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 objectives. to be responsible.

All Council plans including the Corporate plan, the improvement plan, Strategic Well-Being and future generations plan, Strategic director for people plan and service area plans with Social Services all include ensuring we deliver a safe and inclusive community for the citizens of Newport.

Options Available and considered

1. Council view safeguarding as a social services responsibility only.
2. Council acknowledge the importance of having an informed and responsible workforce aware of legislative requirement for safeguarding citizens and when representing the council.

Preferred Option and Why

Option 2 is the preferred option as it reflects the Corporate plan of ensuring we deliver a fair, safe and learning environment for the workforce and citizens. It takes on board all Welsh Office Audit recommendations and is in line with the Social Services and Well-Being Act (2014) also enhances the Well-Being and future generations Act, includes the VAWDASV legislation and demonstrates a forward thinking inclusive Council.

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

There are no direct, additional costs identified as being required stemming from this report. The report updates Members on progress in embedding safeguarding practices across all areas of the Council.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

There are no specific legal issues arising from the Report, which simply updates Cabinet on the progress made in implementing the arrangements for corporate safeguarding in relation to children and vulnerable adults in accordance with the annual Corporate Safeguarding Plan.

Comments of Head of People and Business Change

As the report seeks to update Cabinet on arrangements for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults there are no specific human resources issues. The report acknowledges comments made regarding mechanisms for engagement and they should be viewed in parallel with the approach to engagement and involvement that the Council is moving towards in order to fulfil the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

Comments of Cabinet Member

The Cabinet Member has approved the report for consideration by Cabinet.

Local issues

N/A

Scrutiny Committees

[Meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, Thursday 21st June 2018 \(10am\).](#)

Equalities Impact Assessment and the Equalities Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 contains a Public Sector Equality Duty which came into force on 06 April 2011. The Act identifies a number of 'protected characteristics', namely age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation; marriage and civil partnership. The new single duty aims to integrate consideration of equality and good relations into the regular business of public authorities. Compliance with the duty is a legal obligation and is intended to result in better informed decision-making and policy development and services that are more effective for users. In exercising its functions, the Council must have due regard to the need to: eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Act; advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; and foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. The Act is not overly prescriptive about the approach a public authority should take to ensure due regard, although it does set out that due regard to advancing equality involves: removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics; taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these differ from the need of other people; and encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

Children and Families (Wales) Measure

Although no targeted consultation takes place specifically aimed at children and young people, consultation on planning applications and appeals is open to all of our citizens regardless of their age. Depending on the scale of the proposed development, applications are publicised via letters to neighbouring occupiers, site notices, press notices and/or social media. People replying to consultations

are not required to provide their age or any other personal data, and therefore this data is not held or recorded in any way, and responses are not separated out by age.

Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Report writes need to indicate how they have considered the five things public bodies need to think about to show they have applied the sustainable development principle put into place by the Act. You will need to demonstrate you have considered the following:

- 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 us meet our objectives
- Integration: Consider how the proposals will impact on our wellbeing objectives, our wellbeing goals, other objectives or those of other public bodies
- Collaboration: have you considered how acting in collaboration with any other person or any other part of our organisation could help meet our wellbeing objectives
- Involvement: The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the wellbeing goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the City we serve.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998

Section 17(1) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 imposes a duty on the Local Authority to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area.

Consultation

Comments received from wider consultation, including comments from elected members, are detailed in each application report in the attached schedule.

Background Papers

Safeguarding Annual plan 17/18
Executive summary for Scrutiny committee
Strategic Directors report

Dated: 24/01/2019