

Submission of Evidence to Scrutiny

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Date: February 2018

Corporate Safeguarding (2017-2018)

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

To provide Cabinet members with essential and key information to build their understanding and knowledge on the topic of “safeguarding” in order to allow them to effectively scrutinise local 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.

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. Since the development of this report there have been significant changes in the quality assurance measures which are required to be reported on within the Director’s report for Social Services (formerly the annual council reporting format –ACRF), this has meant that there has been some change in the required key performance indicators for “safeguarding” specifically. Although it will remain the principal objective of the annual Director’s Report for Social Services to report on these performance measures the safeguarding specific indicators have been extrapolated and have been provided as performance measures for scrutiny purposes within this report for members to be aware of. This information has been provided in a separate table for ease of reference however the performance measures will also be referenced within the specific team action plan, for example, the performance measure for “duty to enquire” regarding an adult at risk is also detailed within the “Adult at Risk” team action plan.

The report is again provided in two parts, with part one providing members with the corporate over- view in terms of safeguarding requirements and arrangements based upon the Welsh Audit Office “Review of Corporate Arrangements in Welsh

Councils” (October 2014), used to form the basis of the reporting format and structure, and additionally provides the “safeguarding” specific quality measures as defined within the Director’s report for Social Services. Part two of the report presents the key priority work plans for each team incorporated within the Safeguarding Unit for Newport City Council and allows members to scrutinise and reflect upon the work being undertaken to ensure effective safeguarding arrangements are in place for children and adults in Newport.

Proposal To scrutinise and review the progress of the key priority work plans for both corporate safeguarding arrangements and the safeguarding specific teams.

1. Background

- 1.1 “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. The detailed survey findings and recommendations specifically for Newport City Council were considered in the Learning, Caring and Leisure Scrutiny Committee (15th April 2015) where a safeguarding action plan was ratified. It is from the recommendations of the WAO review to “*improve the work of the council’s scrutiny committees to ensure it is providing assurance on the effectiveness of the council’s corporate safeguarding arrangements (proposal 4)*” and “*identify and agree an appropriate internal audit programme of work for safeguarding (proposal 6)*” that this annual report on Safeguarding has been established.
- 1.2 The Annual Report of the Director of Social Services (2017) acknowledges that Social Services has faced challenges in this period seeing significant budget reductions at a time of increasing need for a population which is growing quickly with indicators for deprivation showing that we have some of the highest rates of vulnerable Children and Adults in Wales. Additionally, with the implementation of the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 there has been both a cultural and practice change required from Adult and Children’s Services in order for the local authority to be compliant with the new legislation, moving away from the traditional models of providing social care services to one which ‘promotes the wellbeing of people and carers who need care and/or support’. The Act provides opportunity for innovation and positive change and certainly focusses on the “Well-being” of our citizens, but as with any major change in legislation the Act requires to ‘bed in’ and the implications for front line practitioners in this ‘new world’ has been an additional challenge experienced within this period.

- 1.3 As identified within the annual report of the Director of Social Services, the new Act (Social Services and Well-Being Act 2014) has brought a number of legislative changes into the practice of social work in Wales. One of the most significant changes from a safeguarding perspective is the new definition of an “adult at risk” and the new legal duty to report where there are concerns identified for either a Child or Adult. This new legal duty to report is of significance and clearly illustrates how safeguarding is everybody’s business, hence a further reason for the establishment of a corporate safeguarding report of this nature to assure members of the pro-active arrangements which the local authority are under taking in safeguarding provisions and service planning. “Safeguarding” under the new Act is covered in more detail in Part 1 of this Report.
- 1.4 Newport City Council is an active member of each of the two regional safeguarding boards that have amalgamated under the umbrella of “Gwent Safeguarding”. The two specific boards are the South East Wales Safeguarding Children’s Board (SEWSCB) and Gwent Wide Adult Safeguarding Board (GWASB); working alongside both boards we also have strong partnership and embedding of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Board (VAWDASVB). The context for each Board is described below and provides Members with information regarding the changes resulting from the new Act (Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014).
- 1.5 Newport officers are involved at all levels of the work of the three boards. Heads of Children and Adult services are members at both Boards, the safeguarding service manager for Newport chairs the business planning meeting for both boards and also chairs the local safeguarding network meetings in Newport. The local safeguarding network in Newport meets bi monthly and is well attended from all partner agencies across Newport for Adults, Children and specialist services. The local safeguarding network also arranges 2 practitioner events per year, which is open to all practitioners in Newport. The events update practitioners on all local and regional developments such as learning/messages from Child/Adult practice reviews, new services and local developments, as well as introducing updated policies and/or procedures.
- 1.6 Detailed information about the Boards and their work can be accessed via the Gwent Safeguarding website however a synopsis and key contact details for each board has been provided below.

www.gwentsafeguarding.org.uk



- **South East Wales Safeguarding Children's Board (SEWSCB)**



Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB's) were introduced on a statutory footing by Welsh Government in October 2006 through the Children Act (2004). The Local Boards were set up with a number of statutory partners including Police, Health, Probation and a range of Local Authority services including Children's Services, Youth Offending Service, Education and Housing. For a number of years they operated on a local authority boundary basis (former Newport Safeguarding Children's Board) however in July 2013 the five local authorities merged to form the Regional SEWSCB. The Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Act 2014 specifies the objectives of Safeguarding Children's Boards as being:

- To protect children within its area who are experiencing, or are at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm, and
- To prevent children within its area from becoming at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm.

The SEWSCB is chaired by – Damien McCann - damien.mccann@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk
Vice Chair – Gareth Jenkins - JENKIG2@CAERPHILLY.GOV.UK

- **Gwent Wide Adult Safeguarding Board (GWASB)**



The regional Gwent Wide Adult Safeguarding Board (GWASB) was established in January 2011, merging the existing tri Council Area Adult Protection Committee arrangements in Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen and Monmouthshire, with those of Caerphilly and Newport. However, this Board was not a statutory partnership until the introduction of the Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Act 2014, which ensured that GWASB was on an equal statutory footing with the Children's Board, Therefore, this Board now has duties and

statutory functions to perform as per the children's safeguarding board. The Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Act 2014 specifies the objectives of Safeguarding Adult's Boards as being:

- To protect adults within its area who;
Have needs for care and support (whether or not a local authority is meeting any of those needs), and
Are experiencing, or are at risk of, abuse or neglect and,
- To prevent those adults within its area mentioned above from becoming at risk of abuse and neglect

The GWASB is chaired by – Keith Rutherford - keith.rutherford@torfaen.gov.uk
Vice Chair – Lin Slater - Lin.Slater@wales.nhs.uk

Both the **SEWSCB** and **GWASB** consist of a strategic membership for the Board and a number of sub groups responsible for completing the work and ensuring this is disseminated for implementation in regional safeguarding practices. It is prescribed in legislation and guidance that each Board must produce an Annual Plan and an Annual Report detailing work undertaken and achievements which is reported directly into Welsh Government. Currently the business support processes for facilitating and supporting these two boards is being developed in order to merge the work of Adult and Children subgroups where practicable and reasonable to do so, however, the SEWSCB and GWASB have not merged into one strategic board at this point. The close collaboration and joint attendance across the two streams of safeguarding practice and policy ensures a robust tie with all agendas, including VAWDASV and therefore reduces duplication of work streams and ensures attendance to all Board objectives are met.

- ***(South East Wales) Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Board (VAWDASVB)***



Newport City Council host the pilot team of officers for this legislation on behalf of the Gwent region and Welsh Government.

The Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 aim is to improve the prevention, protection and support for people affected by violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence. This Act recognises that Public Services need to work together to protect people experiencing such abuse and from suffering any further harm and protecting any children within the family. The VAWDASV partnership board will report annually to each of the Gwent Public Service Boards. The Act introduces requirements for relevant authorities to prepare, publish and implement strategies to contribute to the pursuit of the purpose of the Act and through a guidance power the Act will also introduce:

- A National Training Framework on VAWDASV
- A principles based approach to targeted enquiry for these issues across the Public Service known as “Ask and Act”
- Improved multi agency collaboration in relation to VAWDASV
- Improved commissioning of specialist VAWDASV services

The implementation of “Ask and Act” will be overseen by the South East Wales VAWDASV Partnership Board which is responsible for driving early implementation of “Ask and Act” within two sites; the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Health Board and the South East Wales Local Authorities in order to establish a model or models of implementation which are fit for national rollout. The South East Wales VAWDASV Board receives information and updates from the Regional Adviser through the “Ask and Act” Steering Group. The work plan of the VAWDASV Board ensures that this ACT dovetails with the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and The Housing (Wales) Act 2014 requirements in relation to safeguarding duties and responsibilities. Currently the Engagement and Communications sub group of the SEWSCB feeds directly into the VAWDASV Board and future planning and process mapping for this subgroup to merge the adult and children’s engagement and communication subgroups will also aid in ensuring that “Ask and Act” is embedded throughout ALL council service areas.

The VAWDASVB is chaired by – Rhian Bowen Davies - rbowendavies@outlook.com (previous National independent representative for Welsh Government VAWDASV)

Vice Chair– Rob Hartshorn. - hartsr@caerphilly.gov.uk

1.7 The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 also establishes a National Independent Safeguarding Board which works alongside the regional safeguarding boards to secure improvements in safeguarding policy and practice throughout Wales. The two boards, Children and Adults are required to complete and report annual plans to the Wales National Independent Safeguarding Board. It is recorded at the National Safeguarding board’s summit in 2017 that focussed on safeguarding leadership in Wales that the “*design of an effective practice culture to safeguard children, young people and adults is compromised by increasing demand and diminishing resources*”.

The National Independent Safeguarding Board is chaired by Dr Margaret Flynn and has five appointed members,

- Keith Towler, the former Children’s Commissioner for Wales
- Ruth Henke QC, an eminent lawyer in the protection of Children and vulnerable Adults

- Simon Burch, a former director of social services at Monmouthshire Council
- Jan Pickles OBE, programme director at the NSPCC, Jan also attends the Gwent Boards as the National Board representative.
- Rachel Shaw, designated nurse, safeguarding Children at Public Health Wales.



**National Independent
Safeguarding Board Wales**

**Bwrdd Diogelu Annibynnol
Cenedlaethol Cymru**

<http://safeguardingboard.wales/>

2. Format of the Report

- 2.1 The report is presented in two parts. Part one focusses on the theme of “safeguarding” providing essential information to members to inform their understanding of the topic, this section will provide relevant links to Welsh Government “safeguarding” training videos, regional safeguarding board websites for familiarisation and exploration purposes and specific training resources from approved agencies/ services. It is the anticipated outcome that by providing members involved in the scrutiny of safeguarding arrangements with the right level of useful information on the theme that they will feel able to effectively conduct their duties whilst feeling supported in knowing where and who to go to should they require to clarify or establish any further information.
- 2.2 Part one will then introduce the recommendations made from the Welsh Audit Office ‘Review of Corporate Safeguarding Arrangements in Welsh Councils’ (October 2014) and will report on the measures and arrangements currently in place for corporate safeguarding arrangements and highlight to members the future work anticipated in relation to corporate safeguarding.
- 2.3 Part two presents the key priority work plans for each team incorporated within the Safeguarding Unit for Newport City Council and allows members to scrutinise and reflect upon the work being undertaken to ensure effective safeguarding arrangements are in place for children and adults in Newport.

Part 1- “Safeguarding” and corporate safeguarding arrangements

1. What is “safeguarding”?

- 1.1 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). Every person whatever their background, culture, age, disability, gender, ethnicity, religious belief, has a right to participate and live in a safe society without any violence, fear, abuse, bullying or discrimination. For those children and adults “at risk” living within our society they have a right to be protected from harm, neglect, exploitation and abuse and wherever concerns are identified for those believed to be “at risk” of harm that the appropriate and proportionate action will be taken to make enquiries and to ensure the safety of that person (whether an adult or child).
- 1.2 All employees of Newport City Council are required to undertake the Corporate Induction Training which offers basic safeguarding awareness and advises all employees of their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding. 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. The following resources represent the basic safeguarding information which is available and communicated to employees as part of their induction.
- All Employees must attend the Corporate Induction Session where “Safeguarding Awareness” Slides are presented.
 - For those staff whose employment brings them into direct contact with Children they must complete the basic safeguarding awareness presentation created by the South East Wales Safeguarding Children’s Board.
 - For those staff whose employment brings them into direct contact with Adults who may have care and support needs a leaflet has been created by the Gwent Wide Adult Safeguarding Board.
 - Where employees are identified as requiring further/ more advanced safeguarding training proportionate to their employment (ie. social care practitioners; education staff; etc.) the appropriate training will be identified as part of the wider induction and “Clear Review” development plan of the employee and overseen by their line manager. Further safeguarding training can be accessed via regional safeguarding boards; in-house training (ie. social services training department); and on occasions bespoke training facilitated by external agencies (ie. Children in Wales/ Barnardo’s/ etc.).

- Elected members were provided with an “Overview of Safeguarding” training session delivered in November 2017 (**attachment 1**). It is proposed that this over view training is timetabled annually for all members to attend in addition to providing a programme of safeguarding topic specific sessions (ie. child sexual exploitation; modern day slavery; etc.) which can be facilitated throughout the year (please refer to action plan and future development section of the report for more detail).
- 1.3 Newport City Council has a suite of Safeguarding Policy documents encompassing Children, Adults and Education, which all staff, including voluntary staff members, elected members and contractors must adhere to. These policies were first launched in 2014 as part of the original “Safeguarding Involves Us All” campaign and are hosted on the intranet as well as being promoted within the council induction training. These policy documents have since been reviewed to ensure compliance with the new Act and relevant changes in legislation and regulations (**attachments 2-5**). The policies have been ratified and are due to be relaunched as part of the refresher campaign for “Safeguarding Involves Us All” in the 2018 period.

2. Safeguarding in a legislative and policy context

- 2.1 The Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 is a major change in legislation for Wales which modernises and brings together former social care law, it seeks to simplify how care and support will be delivered to those giving and receiving care and support (Adults, Children and Carers). The Act strengthens the safeguarding and protection of both Adults and Children and there are new duties on relevant partners of the local authority to inform them when it suspects that a person (Adult or Child) may be “at risk”. There are also new legal powers to protect Adults “at risk”.
- 2.2 The following video is a Welsh Government produced resource which summarises the Act and what the Act means for citizens:
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Ci5WByP6Gw>
- 2.3 Section 197(1) of the Act prescribes definitions of ‘abuse’ and ‘neglect’ as follows:
- “*abuse*” means physical, sexual, psychological, emotional or financial abuse (and includes abuse taking place in any setting, whether in a private dwelling, an institution or any other place),
 - “*financial abuse*” includes, having money or other property stolen; being defrauded; being put under pressure in relation to money or other property; having money or other property misused,

- “*neglect*” means a failure to meet a person’s basic physical, emotional, social or psychological needs, which is likely to result in an impairment of the person’s well-being (for example, an impairment of the person’s health or, in the case of a child, an impairment of the child’s development).

The following is a non-exhaustive list of examples for the categories of abuse and neglect:

- *Physical abuse* - hitting, throwing, drowning, burning, shaking, poisoning, suffocating, scalding, slapping, over or misuse of medication, undue restraint, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child or adult.
- *Sexual abuse* - rape and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the person has not or could not consent and/or was pressured into consenting. In respect of children, where a child or young person is forced or enticed to take part in sexual activities whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. This includes;
 - Physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts;
 - Non-contact activities such as involving children looking at, or involved in the production of pornographic material or watching sexual activities;
 - Encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.
- *Emotional/ Psychological abuse* - threats of harm or abandonment, humiliation, verbal or racial abuse, isolation or withdrawal from services or supportive networks, coercive control (‘coercive control’ is an act or pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation, intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish or frighten the victim). Emotional abuse may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only in so far as they meet the needs of the person. Exposure of children, directly or indirectly, to domestic abuse.
- *Neglect* - failure to access medical care or services, negligence in the face of risk-taking, failure to protect a child from danger (including lack of supervision/ exposure to adults who pose a risk), failure to give prescribed medication, failure to assist in personal hygiene or the provision of food, shelter, clothing.
- *Financial abuse* in relation to people who may have needs for care and support may include –
 - unexpected change to their will;
 - sudden sale or transfer of the home;

- unusual activity in a bank account;
- sudden inclusion of additional names on a bank account;
- signature does not resemble the person's normal signature;
- reluctance or anxiety by the person when discussing their financial affairs;
- giving a substantial gift to a carer or other third party;
- a sudden interest by a relative or other third party in the welfare of the person;
- bills remaining unpaid;
- complaints that personal property is missing;
- a decline in personal appearance that may indicate that diet and personal requirements are being ignored;
- deliberate isolation from friends and family giving another person total control of their decision-making.

2.4 A “*child at risk*” is defined under the Act as a person under the age of 18 years who:

“(a) is experiencing or is at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm, and

(b) has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs)” (section 130 (4)) .

Although the Act does enforce change in respect of social work with children fundamentally the existing legislation for safeguarding children (ie. The Children Act 1989) remains in place.

2.5 An “*adult at risk*” is defined under the Act as a person over the age of 18 years who:

“(a) is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect,

(b) has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs), and

(c) as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it” (Section 126 (1)).

This definition is of significance and marks a major change from a legislative and policy context as the former definition in respect of a “vulnerable adult” has been replaced with a more broad ranging definition of an “adult at risk” with new legal duties and powers being placed on local authorities and partner agencies to act and respond to **all** adults who meet this definition.

2.6 An “*Adult Protection and Support Order*” is a new legal order which the local authority can apply to the courts to obtain in respect of identified or suspected “adults at risk”, this is a major change in legislation and within social work practice with adults as safeguarding adults prior to the Act had relied upon the former “vulnerable adult” definition and where there were no statutory powers or legal orders available when concerns were suspected or identified. This change in legislation is likely to see a more broad ranging scope of reasons

for intervention given the definition terminology change and in respect of timeliness in gaining access to the “adult at risk” when an order has been invoked.

- 2.7 “Safeguarding” is also intrinsically embedded within The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. This Act ensures that public bodies think more about the long term, work better with people and communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach to ensure sustainability and ultimately to create a Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future. In order to achieve the “well-being duty” we must ensure that our citizens are safe, residing in well-connected communities and within a society where people’s physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.

The following resources have been identified to provide further detail about the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015::

- <http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/future-generations-act/future-generations-act-video/?skip=1&lang=en>
- A guide to the Well-Being and Future Generations Act - [The Essentials - Summary of the Well-being and Future Generations \(Wales\) Act](#)

- 2.8 The Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 is a further new piece of legislation within Wales reflective of safeguarding. The VAWDASV Act 2015 aims to improve the Public Sector response to domestic abuse; sexual violence; honour based violence; forced marriage and female genital mutilation by providing the strategic focus to improve the arrangements for the prevention, protection and support for individuals affected by such violence and abuse. The Act introduces requirements for relevant authorities (local authorities, local health boards, fire and rescue and National Health Service trusts) to prepare, publish and implement strategies regarding a principles based approach to targeted enquiry known as “Ask and Act”, an improved multi-agency collaboration and improved commissioning of services in relation to VAWDASV, and a national training framework on VAWDASV . The five South East Wales local authorities have been selected as an early adopter site in Wales for “Ask and Act” to develop and implement policies and processes ahead of a national roll out, the Regional VAWDASV Advisory Team is located within the Newport Safeguarding Unit. Members should be aware of the corporate responsibilities of the Local Authority and strengthening senior leadership requirements in relation to VAWDASV, the following training videos have been identified to assist members in respect of this legislation;

- **1st Episode - The role of senior leadership** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nS1W5hAlkY4>
- **2nd Episode- A Workforce Issue** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liSV8nootbE>

3. What are our corporate responsibilities regarding safeguarding?

3.1 The Safeguarding Action Plan presented to the Learning, Caring and Leisure Scrutiny on 15th April 2015 used the six proposals for improvement recommended by the Wales Audit Office review of “Local Authority Arrangements to Support Safeguarding of Children”. This action plan has now been developed to also incorporate and reflect the wider context of safeguarding Adults under the new Act. The corporate safeguarding action plan (PART 1) in addition to the individual work plans of the teams within Newport Safeguarding Unit (PART 2) illustrate how we as an organisation will ensure that the duty of “safeguarding” is embedded across all service areas.

3.2 The local authority also has duties to report on the National Measures identified within the Director’s Report for Social Services. The safeguarding specific quality assurance measures taken from the Director’s Report for Social Services are illustrated in the tables below and provide members with the performance reported to Welsh Government in the 2017 report. A narrative column has been provided for members to accompany this data for context purposes and is taken directly from the Director’s Report. Members are respectfully reminded that the following data is safeguarding specific extracted from the wider data set required for Welsh Government as National Measures. As a local authority we also record and monitor our own local safeguarding performance measures to quality assure our performance and planning and this data is recorded within the team specific action plans (see part 2 of the report).

Quantitative data:

% of adult protection enquiries completed within statutory timescales	97.78%	Newport have performed well in respect of the response to the “Duty to report an adult at risk”, as 97.78% of all referrals received have a decision made within the statutory timescale of 7 working days in respect of the potential adult at risk
% of re-registrations of children on local authority child protection register	10.91%	The percentage of re-registrations of children on Newport’s Child Protection Register within the year in this period is

		currently 10.91%, this is a slight increase on the number recorded in the previous period. Viewing the number of re-registrations should not automatically be framed in the context that there has been a failure to protect the child from abuse, harm or neglect during the original period of registration as the re-registration period may result from entirely separate circumstances to the original registration reason.
Average length of time for all children on cpr during year	265.3	The average length of time for children on the Child Protection register during this year was 265 days. It is important to note the context in which this statistic is supplied and it must be taken into account that the safety and permanency planning for a child identified "at risk" of abuse or harm should always be considered/ reviewed on an individual basis, as one child's circumstances for

		registration will not be the same as another child's circumstances even if within the same registration category.
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Qualitative data:

Survey data responding to "People reporting that they feel safe"		
Carers Survey 84% (84) carers said they felt safe; 12% (12) said sometimes, 4% (4) did not feel safe.	Adult Survey 75% (311) of adults felt safe; 15 % (57) said 'sometimes'; 6% (24) said no. (unaccounted 4% did not respond to survey question)	Children's Survey 19 out of 22 children felt they were safe (86%), the other 3 children said they felt safe 'sometimes'.

4. Planned developments to enhance safeguarding within Newport

4.1 Newport Safeguarding Hub (pilot)

Newport City Council agreed to pilot a safeguarding multi-agency HUB on behalf of Gwent partners. On Monday 12th February 2018 Newport City Council are hosting a pilot safeguarding Hub on behalf of Gwent councils and partner agencies. The Hub is based in the Civic centre and professionals working within the Hub to begin with are, the Police, Social Services Children safeguarding (duty) and Adult safeguarding, Children Preventions and Newport independent domestic abuse advisors.

There is no precedent for a safeguarding HUB across 5 Local Authority areas and the pilot will be focussing on:

- Information gathering
- Assessment of risk
- Decision making.

The pilot will be compiling data and measuring to evidence if delivering safeguarding services through the HUB model will improve efficiency and processes by robust partnership collaboration and decision making.

The process will also evidence if there is an improved citizen journey and feedback to referrers.

There will be a full evaluation of the pilot at 3 and 6 months and will be reported back to strategic leaders. The results of the evaluation will also inform the Council's future planning in respect of delivering services through such a resource past the pilot phase.

4.2 Mental Capacity Act (Deprivation of Liberty safeguards)

The revised Mental Health Act of 2007, developed an alternative legislative pathway to be considered primarily for adults with mental capacity issues by the introduction of the Mental Capacity Act 2005. The legislative provision for deprivation of liberty safeguards (DOLs) is located within the Mental Capacity Act 2005. In 2015 The Law Commission completed a consultation regarding a review of the Dols Process, which has been criticised for being bureaucratic and unnecessarily complicated. It remains unclear, with the present Government's list of commitments as to when the review of this legislation will occur; until then, the process remains as it is.

Newport City Council has legislative responsibilities to discharge all duties as a Supervisory Body within the Act. As a Supervisory Body we are responsible for scrutinising, authorising as appropriate and reviewing all DOLs authorisations for citizens in Care homes within Newport, and also any Newport citizen that is ordinarily resident but may be accommodated outside of the City, and is subject to a deprivation safeguard.

Authorisations for Newport council are at Head of Service and Service Manager level within adult services and safeguarding. Regionally Newport City Council are part of a Gwent Consortium model funded by the 5 local authorities and ABUHB, the regional team manage all requests for authorisations under schedule A1 of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards 2009 (hospitals and care home residents). Funding contributions by the 5 LA's and ABUHB is based on Population numbers within each area.

When the regional team are notified of a request for a citizen to possibly have a deprivation applied for, the team arrange for a Best Interest Assessment (BIA) to be completed by the pool of staff dedicated within the regional team.

Regional team composition:

- 1 x dedicated Team lead/ BIA
- 5x Dedicated BIA's
- Seconded BIA's (from LA's and ABUHB)
- Pool BIA's [a group who have agreed to undertake BIA work of 1x month]

- 2 x admin Local Authorities,
Hospital deprivations are managed by the Gwent Dols Team, and the Supervisory Body is the ABUHB.

Newport has the second highest number of care homes in the region (22) and has increased requests for authorisations as a result. The applications for authorisations have continued to increase annually across Wales and the UK. Within a year Welsh Government report a significant increase in Welsh statistics, CSSIW and HIW Annual Monitoring Report for Health and Social Care 2014-2015 reported the figures below;

2013 - 2014	631 applications across Wales
2014 ~ 2015	10,679 applications across Wales

Newport statistics for DOLs recorded by the Regional team:

April 1st 2016- March 31st 2017 339 referrals complete and 201 in progress (197 Female 142 Male)

Not all requests for DOLS are managed by the regional team, Newport Adult Social Services manage all applications for citizens living in supported living types of accommodation. These are managed through the Court of Protection and have significant impact on resources and financial pressures on the Council.

Future challenges for developments for discharge of DOLs duties;

1. Financial pressures for Court of Protection applications
2. Increase in volume of work for initial Authorisation for DOL
3. Increase in number of review of DOLs Authorisations (some are very short)
4. Increase in volume of work predicted as a result of raising awareness of DOLs within Childrens services and case Law specifically for 16-18yr olds or children in residential establishments at age 18.
5. Increase in case law regarding deprivations in the community is proving a difficult area to quantify as many citizens are not known to social services, but all authorisations will be the responsibility of Newport Council.
6. Increase in paid advocacy (RPR) is evidencing an increase in appeals.
7. Training for staff continual requirement
8. Contracting and commissioning of care to ensure all Managing Authorities (Care homes) are aware of their duty to refer in a timely manner and not allow a DOLs to lapse without review or discharge.

9. Care reviews to include all legal authorisations and DOL requirements.

Future annual safeguarding reporting will include a DOLs specific action plan within Part 2 of this report and will evidence the work completed and pending in regards to the number of BIAs completed and pending; DOLs authorisations completed; reviews completed in time frame; discharge of DOLs.

4.3- Elected Members “Safeguarding” training

During 2017 we facilitated a whole Member training event, addressing the corporate safeguarding agenda to raise awareness with Members (**see attachment 1**). We have agreed to facilitate a number of safeguarding topics throughout the year to enable Members to discuss specific issues and gain an increased understanding of service areas. Topics suggested for this programme of work include:

- Child Sexual Exploitation, how do we manage the process in Newport, current numbers and practice?
- Adult Safeguarding, duty to report and duty to enquire what does that mean in practice?
- Professional Strategy meetings, how do we manage concerns regarding professionals and safeguarding issues with children and adults? Looking at the process and understanding risk.
- Child protection conferences, when do we have them, what are the outcomes? Do we complete within timescales, what is the role of an Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO)
- Adult and Child practice reviews, what are they and are they of benefit to improved services?
- Domestic Homicide Reviews, the process and responsibility for shared learning
- Safeguarding Champions throughout Newport Corporate services.

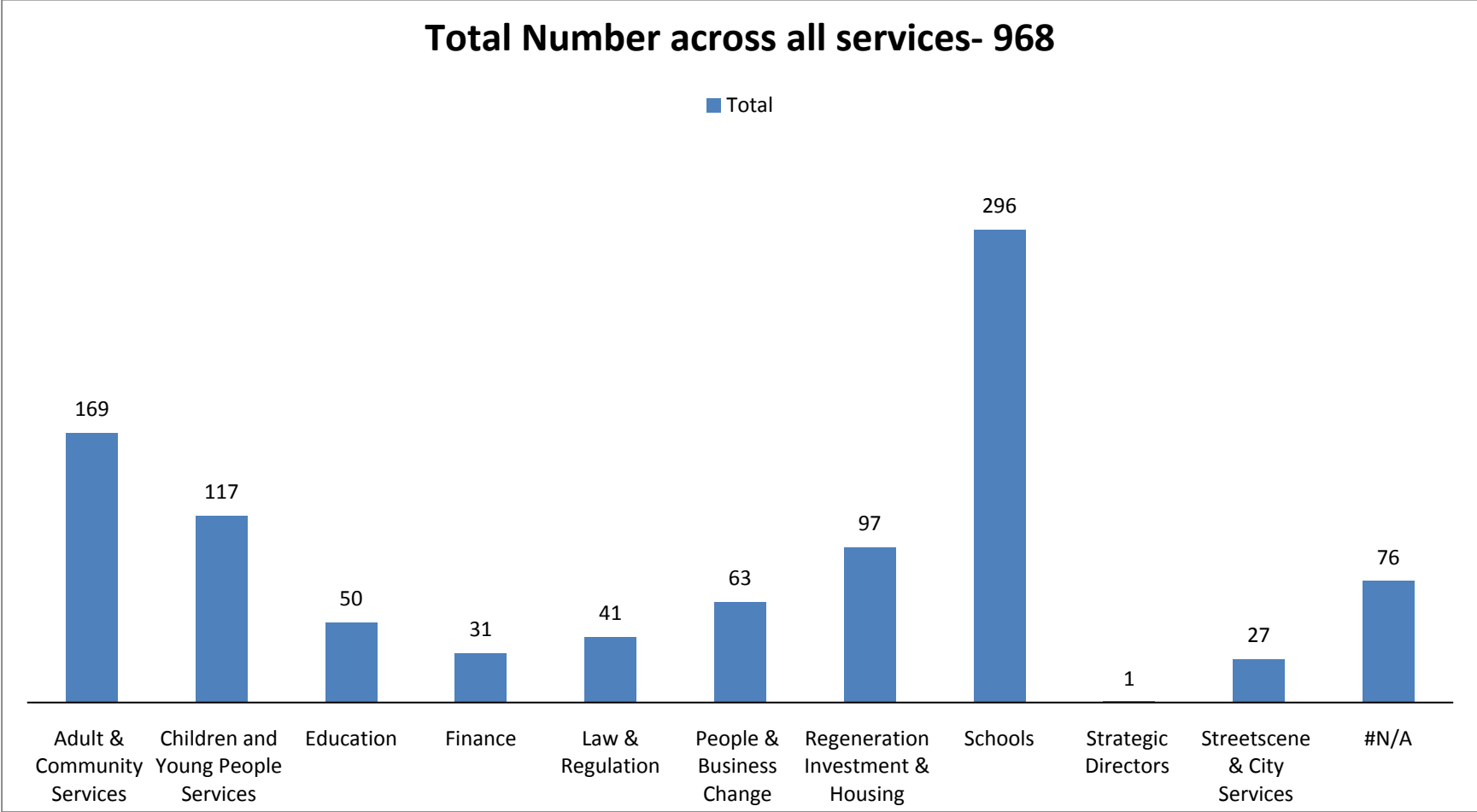
4.4 E- learning and training

The local authority has a duty to ensure that safeguarding training is mandatory for all staff (including volunteers, elected members) and is proportionate to their role requirements. Encompassed within this includes the Welsh Government request to ensure that all employees where possible (those who have not been affected by Domestic Abuse) complete the e-learning course- Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence. The total number of employees categorised into service areas has been provided in table 1:

(Table 1)

Adult & Community Services Count	628
Children and Young People Services Count	409
Education Count	364
Finance Count	94
Law & Regulation Count	261
People & Business Change Count	112
Regeneration Investment & Housing Count	643
Schools Count	3865
Strategic Directors Count	3
Streetscene & City Services Count	393
Total of every employee	6772

Currently 968 employees have completed this specific e-learning course and the figures for each service area have been provided in the graph below.



It is evident that further progress is still to be made in order to meet the required target for Welsh Government, therefore, this is a key priority on the corporate safeguarding action plan over the forthcoming year to deliver on improving the numbers of employees who have completed this training.

This work will be in addition to the key priority already identified regarding the creation of a corporate-wide system to identify, track and monitor compliance on attending safeguarding training in all Council departments, elected members, schools, governors and volunteers.

4.5 Relaunch “Safeguarding Involves Us All” Campaign

The “Safeguarding Involves Us All” Campaign will be relaunched within this next quarter and will incorporate the revised Safeguarding Policy Suite (**attachments 2-5**); launching the “Safeguarding Champions” role within each service area (**attachment 6**); and revising the information provided on the Safeguarding section of the staff intranet to ensure that all of the information is relevant, up to date and provides useful links which include Gwent Safeguarding Boards.

Part 1- Corporate Safeguarding Action Plan (2017/2018)

1. Key Priorities/ Themes for Corporate Safeguarding (2017/2018)

What outcomes do we want to achieve? (Objectives to achieve)	How will we make this happen?	When will we achieve this?	How will we know it's making a difference? (Performance measures)	RAG status
Review the Corporate Safeguarding Policies and Procedures developed in 2014 to ensure they are Act Compliant and relaunch the suite of documents across all service areas to ensure that all Council employees are aware of their responsibilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safeguarding documents to be reviewed by lead authors (education/ adults/ children) to ensure they are complaint with the SSWB Act. - Work with H.R/ Legal to establish a process for recognising "failure to act" in safeguarding circumstances as 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education Policy Completed (September 2017) - Children's Policy review by end of November 2017 - Adult's Policy review by end of November 2017 - Completed, ratified by CSMT, need to be relaunched - Proposal of process to be submitted to Heads of Service 	All Employees will know basic safeguarding information and their responsibilities regarding safeguarding as an employee will be clearly communicated and understood.	<p>Green</p> <p>Policies have been updated in line with new Act</p> <p>Where we are currently: AMBER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policies need to be relaunched as part of safeguarding awareness campaign

	<p>a potential disciplinary matter and reflect this within the corporate mission statement of safeguarding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Documents to be re-launched utilising the intranet resource and notification via the staff e-bulletin to ensure all employees know where to access the information. 	<p>for preliminary discussion by March 2017</p> <p>Outstanding-18/19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy relaunch and dissemination <p>Outstanding-March 18</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to work with legal and HR re. “failure to act”
<p>To meet the WAO recommendations the council should confirm the “senior lead officer who is accountable for safeguarding and protecting children and young people with corporate responsibilities for planning improvements”; and the “appointment of a lead member for safeguarding”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heads of adult and children services raise at corporate level and agree appropriate representation highlighting importance of the role 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Within forthcoming quarter for 2018 	<p>All Staff will be aware of the following identified persons identified with Safeguarding responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senior Lead Officer: James Harris (Strategic Director- People) - Lead Member for Safeguarding: Councillor Paul Cockeram (Cabinet Member for Social Services) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amber - This information will be publicised within the Safeguarding Awareness Campaign and via the safeguarding champions network; wider staff news information; intranet “safeguarding” section

<p>Agree designated corporate safeguarding champions within all Council Service Areas who will be responsible for championing “safeguarding” within their service area and providing advice and direction for staff within the service area should a query/ concern arise.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nominations for champions for each service area to be requested by Heads of Service/ Safeguarding Service Manager. - Identified Champions Register to be created by the Safeguarding Unit. The register should be held centrally by Human Resources and updated should an identified champion no longer hold that position. - Champions’ names and contact details to be published on the intranet safeguarding tab and communicated via e-bulletin. - Champions to be briefed/ supported in respect of their role by the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - March 2018 <p>All information prepared and ready for nominations from each service area.</p> <p>Schedule of meetings to be agreed for the year to establish the safeguarding champions network</p> <p>Register to be held in HR and reviewed at each network meeting to ensure correct officers in post.</p>	<p>Every service area reflects that “safeguarding” is a key priority/ theme embedded within all services being delivered by the Council.</p> <p>All employees will feel that they know who and how to contact the right person within the organisation should they have a query or concern.</p> <p>Improvement in how information on safeguarding is shared across the organisation collectively.</p>	<p>Amber</p> <p>“Safeguarding Champions” briefing and requirements have been ratified by CEO and will now require to be presented to Heads of Service Areas to identify an appropriate employee (Document attached as appendices for Members to view-attachment 6)</p> <p>Clear strategy for taking forward in18/19 will be evidenced through staff news and as part of all service areas information.</p>
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	<p>Safeguarding Unit (QA/ Service Manager) ensuring they are aware of the safeguarding policies and processes of who to contact/ where to direct and access information on safeguarding generally and in specific circumstances.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review with service leads if the Action plan in each service area reviewed by People Portfolio Board outlines safeguarding training as a key priority 			
<p>Develop a system to identify, track and monitor compliance with attendance at safeguarding training in all council departments, elected members, schools, governors and volunteers and to identify and prompt those staff members who require</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corporate e-learning induction regarding safeguarding information to be reviewed by Quality Assurance (Safeguarding Unit) with People and Business Change (Jane 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - August 2017 	<p>There is a corporate safeguarding register which identifies those staff members who require additional/ refresher safeguarding training beyond the corporate induction process. Those identified employees will be notified and can be monitored</p>	<p>Amber- Page Tiger will be used as the new corporate induction- will work with Business Change to further this once established, new induction occurring from March 2018</p>

<p>refresher safeguarding training as part of their role.</p>	<p>Westwood-Gover). Amendments to the e-learning module to be ratified through Heads of Service and Cabinet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with People and Business Change to identify all those staff/ positions which require additional/ refresher safeguarding training and then devise a register and monitoring process. - General “Safeguarding” training provided to all members (Nov 2017) and an offer extended to members to provide a rolling programme of safeguarding awareness training sessions on specific issues (ie. CSE, DOLS) 	<p>- August 2017</p> <p>November 2017</p>	<p>through the system to ensure that they have attended the required safeguarding training proportionate to their role.</p> <p>The council will be able to demonstrate via evidence (data) that those employees who require refresher/ additional safeguarding training are compliant.</p> <p>All council members have awareness in respect of their safeguarding duties and responsibilities</p>	<p>Amber- Need to meet with HR and training department to track additional refresher training processes and to monitor and track the e-learning completion requirements for VAWDASV</p> <p>Green- Overarching safeguarding delivered to Members.</p> <p>Amber- Agree ongoing Member specific safeguarding training/awareness to be timetabled throughout the year.</p>
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<p>Improve the range, quality and coverage of safeguarding performance reporting to provide adequate assurance that corporate arrangements are working effectively and Council's Scrutiny Committees are provided with assurance on the effectiveness of the Council's Safeguarding Arrangements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a corporate safeguarding report for scrutiny (to be reviewed annually) which reports on the effectiveness of the Council's corporate arrangements and the specific effectiveness of the teams which form Newport's Safeguarding Unit. - Children and Adult Services Performance Board continue to meet six weekly to review performance which includes safeguarding data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - November 2016 - On-going 	<p>The Council will be able to demonstrate and feel assured that robust systems/ processes are in place across the Council which ensure that "corporate safeguarding" arrangements are being met and the specific work plans of the teams within Newport Safeguarding Unit are effectively delivering on their identified key priorities.</p>	<p>Green</p> <p>Annual report now established which synthesises all safeguarding reporting into 1 report for members – this action can be removed from future action planning</p>
<p>Improve how "safeguarding" information is communicated externally to the citizens of Newport in order to ensure that our citizens know who to contact if they need information, advice or assistance and to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remove the former Safeguarding Children in Newport (SCIN) website as this is redundant due to the regional board establishment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - January 2017 - January 2017 	<p>Citizens of Newport will be provided with essential and relevant information on "safeguarding" with the anticipated outcome that they feel that their health, well-being, human rights and opportunity to live in a community free from harm, abuse and neglect</p>	<p>Amber</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Established that Gwent Police communication and digital team maintain the site, request has been made for the site to be taken down. Links to GWENT

<p>promote the Council’s commitment to safeguarding by communicating essential information and highlighting where changes have or will be made (ie. Legislation/ Policy/ Council Procedures).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update the “safeguarding” information on the external website to ensure it reflects the new SSWB Act and include useful information (ie. definitions of “adult at risk” and the new duty to enquire); links to regional safeguarding boards (adults and children). - Future development on this section of the website to include links to endorsed partner agencies videos/ resources/ information for young people/ parents/ carers on specific safeguarding topics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - August 2017 	<p>is being promoted and supported by the local authority.</p>	<p>Safeguarding Board available instead- need to check this is on Council internet page</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to update the safeguarding intranet page with new policies, safeguarding champions details, add safeguarding links on the intranet page for safeguarding topics (ie. CSE) once re- launch campaign completed
<p>Newport Safeguarding Hub (pilot) to improve more robust and collaborative ways of multi- agency working to safeguard the citizens of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish the NSH to function within Newport City Council premises - Work collaboratively with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Go Live date February 2018 - 3 monthly and 6 monthly evaluation to regional heads of service to 	<p>Robust and collaborative decision making via multi agency working arrangements to effectively safeguard the citizens of Newport</p>	<p>Green- Hub Pilot has been launched, evaluation reports due in month 3 (April 2018) and month 6 (July 2018).</p>








<p>Newport so they receive the right support from the right service at the right time</p>	<p>multi agency partners (police/ education/ health/ probation) to establish agreed NSH processes and procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide evaluation data at months 3 and 6 to inform the outcome of developing a safeguarding hub locally with a view to rolling out the model regionally 	<p>determine benefits of maintaining the Newport Safeguarding Hub beyond the pilot phase and to support a regional rollout of the model if progressed</p>	<p>providing the right service at the right time. A reduction in the number of citizens inappropriately receiving costly services from Social Services, Health Police and partner agencies.</p>	
<p>Mental Capacity Act Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards data to be added as a work plan to Part 2 of the Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data set and key priorities specifically for DOLs to be created and added as a work plan to the annual report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - February 2019 	<p>Detailed information regarding the required performance measures for DOLS will be provided for scrutiny and quality assurance by members.</p>	<p>Green- DOLS information and data has been provided to members within this report and all future reports a specific action plan will be incorporated into Part 2 of the report.</p>

Part 2- Safeguarding Unit Individual Teams Key Priority Plans

1. Newport Safeguarding Unit Structure



2. Individual Teams Key Priority Plans

<p>Child Sexual Exploitation</p>  <p>Safeguarding report CSE 2017 2018.docx</p>	<p>Independent Reviewing Officers/ Safeguarding Administration</p>  <p>Safeguarding IRO plan 17 18.docx</p>	<p>Safeguarding in Education</p>  <p>Safeguarding Education plan 2017,</p>	<p>Quality Assurance (Children's Services)</p>  <p>safeguarding team qa key priority plan 21</p>	<p>Local Authority Designated Officer</p>  <p>safeguarding team lado key priority plan</p>	<p>Adult at Risk</p>  <p>Adults at Risk plan 2017 2018.docx</p>	<p>Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence</p>  <p>VAWDASV workplan 2017.docx</p>
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Recommendations to the Committee

- Members are asked to endorse and ratify the annual Corporate Safeguarding Report by considering the identified objectives and associated RAG statuses of the work plans (Parts 1 and 2) and quality assuring that the identified objectives are being delivered upon within the Council.
- Members are asked to question and scrutinise any areas of practice both corporately and within the specific work plans of the Safeguarding Unit where they feel that objectives are not being effectively addressed or met.

Resource implications (employment and financial)







There is significant pressure across Social Services and Education to continue to improve and develop safeguarding as “everybody’s business” and as part of the routine of what-ever ‘specific role’ they are employed in. On-going contribution to staff training is vital to ensure this is embedded across services but as such places additional responsibilities on managers to ensure staff are trained and balanced with specific tasks within their employment.

The conclusions from the Newport Safeguarding (HUB) will evidence whether we are able to meet all legislative timeframes or whether as a council we need to reshape how we deliver services to ensure expediency in safeguarding and stronger more effective pathways when in a close partnership location.

The Council will be required to give due consideration in relation to how the on-going safeguarding services can be delivered and this may result in financial implications/ additional resources being required. Additional pressures on service areas such as Adults, with expedient delivery of all DOLS referrals and Adult safeguarding with the increased referrals since ‘duty to report’ is now in legislation and requires stringent management to ensure all are attended to within legislative timeframes.

There is also significant pressure for Children’s Services in respect of a lack of placement options for children looked after (LAC) and the risk of children being inappropriately placed within the authority’s residential children’s homes (Forest Lodge/ Cambridge House) thus impacting on the well-being of those vulnerable children due to them receiving inappropriate accommodation and the impact on the resources themselves due to managing incompatible placements and the potential ramifications from Care Inspectorate Wales (formerly CSSIW) should such placements be being made.

Attachments

1. "Overview of Safeguarding" Members training (Nov 2017)	 Safeguarding Overview Members Tr
2. Newport City Council Safeguarding Policy Statement (October 2017)	 Final NCC Safeguarding Policy S
3. Newport City Council Safeguarding Child Protection Policy and Procedure (October 2017)	 Final NCC Safeguarding CP Polic
4. Newport City Council Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy and Procedure (October 2017)	 Final NCC Safeguarding Adults :
5. Newport City Council Safeguarding in Education Child Protection Policy (2017)	 Education Child Protection - Safeguar
6. Safeguarding Champion Briefing (2017)	 Safeguarding Champion Briefing (Fi