

Report

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Part 1

Date: 22 May 2019

Item No: 6

Subject Newport City Council Corporate Safeguarding Report

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

Author Mary Ryan Head of Corporate Safeguarding Newport City Council

Ward All

Summary This is the second review of the annual corporate safeguarding report. The committee's recommendations made in February 2018 regarding the original report format are accepted and there has been a significant re-modelling of the report to present Scrutiny with a revised strategic and synthesised document.

Proposal For Cabinet to review the progress of the key priority work plans for both corporate safeguarding arrangements and safeguarding specific teams.

Action by 22 May 2019

Timetable Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Strategic Director - People
- Head of People and Business Change
- Head of Finance
- Head of law and Regulation

Signed: Mary Ryan

Background

1.1 The Corporate Safeguarding Report was established in 2015 with the objective of reporting on Newport's performance based on the recommendations from The Wales Audit Office 'Review of Corporate Safeguarding Arrangements in Welsh Councils' (2014), in addition to bringing together all of the other safeguarding reporting strands across the council into one safeguarding reporting route. The Learning, Caring and Leisure Scrutiny Committee ratified the initial Corporate Safeguarding Annual

Report and Action Plan in April 2015. Since restructuring within the council this report has since presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

1.2 Newport City Council remains an active member of the “Gwent Safeguarding Board”. The Board an umbrella for both 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 (VAWDASV).

1.4 Newport officers are involved at all levels of the work of the three boards. Heads of Children and Adult services are members on both Board’s, the safeguarding Head of Corporate Safeguarding 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 open and attended to all partner agencies across Newport for Adults, Children and specialist services. The local safeguarding network also arranges two 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 within safeguarding.

1.5 The annual report details the functions and duties of all Senior Officers in Newport Council, and responsibilities to embed safeguarding across the corporate landscape. The start of the ‘Safeguarding Champions’ roll out across all services commenced this year and will continue to be developed to ensure safeguarding is everybody’s business.

1.6 The report includes service area plans’ for those with requirements for safeguarding performance measures for Welsh Government. .

1.7 Scrutiny recommendation from April 2019 will be included for the next annual safeguarding report to scrutiny; ie Bench marking and a 3 years data analysis for service areas.

Financial Summary

- An action plan will be delivered within existing resources for each service area to address priorities such as the elearning packages with HR partners. Although each service are working to capacity the proposals within the action plan are not unrealistic, they are cost effective without the requirement for any of the work to be out-sourced and will ensure that we are compliant in terms of W.A.O recommendations.

Risks

The risks for Newport City Council are enshrined in legislation since the Social Services and Well-Being Act 2014 became statute. Welsh Government and Welsh Audit Office reporting requirements not to continue embedding safeguarding across the corporate landscape is a significant risk to the council.

The sustainability of embedding safeguarding across corporate services within Newport demonstrates a responsible positive and courageous council.

The embedding of safeguarding champions is across service areas and is proportionate to specific roles and responsibilities.

The report details the need for the Council to ensure and embed safe recruitment practices implemented and adhered to across the council. These are supported by updated HR policies and procedures. The introduction over the next year of a safeguarding elearning tool for all new employees will enable a data collection of staff trained.

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?
Embed Safeguarding across the Corporate agenda as the report details.	Low	low	Safeguarding proposals and developments across the corporate landscape will continue to embed an enable staff to recognise, react and report as legislation requires. Produce safeguarding page on the intranet. Relaunch the 'safeguarding is everybody's business' campaign Introduce Safeguarding champions across corporate services	Mary Ryan in conjunction with all Service areas leads
Standstill the development of safeguarding within corporate services	High	High	Produce safeguarding page on the intranet. Relaunch the 'safeguarding is everybody's business' campaign Introduce Safeguarding champions across corporate services	Mary Ryan and safeguarding leads across corporate services
No further development of safeguarding across the Corporate agenda	High	High	Produce safeguarding page on the intranet. Relaunch the 'safeguarding is everybody's business' campaign Introduce Safeguarding champions across corporate services	Mary Ryan and safeguarding leads across corporate services

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

In this paragraph please set out how your proposals fit in with Council's priorities or plans.

Options Available and considered

1. To continue to develop corporate safeguarding practice within all services across the Council and embed all WAO recommendations to evidence a responsible and positive Council.
2. To halt the on-going development of safeguarding practice across the Council and for Social Services to be the one safeguarding measure within the Council.

Preferred Option and Why

1. **The preferred option, enable the Council to grow and ensure that safeguarding is 'everybody's business' and part of every Council service delivered to the citizens of Newport.**

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

The Cabinet and Safeguarding report confirms there are no cost implications as the identified action plans will be implemented from existing resources.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

There are no specific legal issues arising from the report. The Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report sets out how the Council is discharging its statutory safeguarding duties under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act and how these corporate responsibilities have been embedded throughout the organisation, in relation to the delivery of all services and functions. The Annual Report sets out the progress made to date in delivering key actions and priorities, both in terms of corporate safeguarding and specific social care functions.

Comments of Head of People and Business Change

Effective safeguarding arrangements are a vital part of ensuring the safety and wellbeing of local people in the course of the Council's business. A corporate approach to safeguarding ensures clear and consistent procedures are in place so that council employees can recognise signs and dangers and will then act appropriately. The Corporate Safeguarding Report provides for openness and accountability and allows the Scrutiny Committee to have an overview role of Council safeguarding arrangements and activities. A Fairness and Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed, is attached to this report, and identifies equalities and wellbeing implications.

There are no direct human resources implications to this report.

Comments of Cabinet Member

Councillor Cockeram confirms the success of the safeguarding HUB pilot over the last year and continued development with Health partners will ensure a fully engaged partnership in the delivery of safeguarding practice in Newport.

Scrutiny Committees

The Committee wished to make the following comments to Cabinet.

1. The Committee noted that some of the information received such as the VAWDASV training data was out of date. It was recommended that in future annual safeguarding reports contained up to date information and deadlines related to actions in the individual team plans.
2. The committee requested that in future reports information is presented itself in a way that lends itself to scrutiny. For instance where possible using percentages instead of figures, and provide comparable data from previous years or other Local Authority data if available.

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.

Please see below



Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

- **Long term:** The annual safeguarding report evidences the Council's commitment to continually developing a corporate workforce that is knowledgeable and responsible regarding their duties as a Newport employee.
- **Prevention:** Considering the long- term outcomes for citizens of Newport, the prevention and early intervention services will assist in them determining support and what matters to them. Survivors s and their families and in particular any children and young people exposed to VAWDASV.
- **Integration:** The pilot safeguarding HUB within the Civic centre is evidence of integration with all public agencies in Newport across safeguarding practices and processes.
- **Collaboration:** The strong links Newport officers have with the Gwent Wide Safeguarding and VAWDASV Partnership Board's as well as the Public Service Board Newport (Domestic Homicide Reviews) ensures that safeguarding practice and process are included in all strategic themes of the Council's work.
- **Involvement:** The voice of the child, adult and families that Newport City Council work with in enshrined in legislation and a requirement for practice. All safeguarding practice involves and records not only the citizen's wishes and feelings but all partner agencies involved in the process.

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

Dated: 01/05/2019