

Scrutiny Report



Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Part 1

Date: September 2022

Subject Annual Corporate Safeguarding 2020/21

Author Scrutiny Adviser

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

Invitee:	Area / Role / Subject
Finn Madell	Head of Corporate Safeguarding
Mary Ryan	Head of Adult Services
Natalie Poyner	Head of Children's Services

Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

1 Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked to

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

2 Context

Background

- 2.1 This is the fifth review of the Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report.
- 2.2 Further revisions to the format and data presented within this annual report have been made and it is anticipated that due to further work with partner agencies such as the Gwent Safeguarding

Board and advice from Welsh Government, a final version of the report model presented for Scrutiny will be agreed within the next two years.

- 2.3 In order for the authority to comply with the [Social Services and Wellbeing \(Wales\) Act 2014](#), change to culture and practice has been required. This has seen a move toward social care that 'promotes the wellbeing of people and carers who need care and/or support'.
- 2.4 There is a new Head of Corporate Safeguarding. This role falls under the management of the Director of Social Services.
- 2.5 Respecting the wishes of the committee to provide only streamlined and targeted information within the report (February 2021), revisions to the format and data presented have been made to this report. Therefore, the changes are as follows;
- Safeguarding team specific plans are no longer reported, only where key issues are identified will these be shared with members for their scrutiny.
 - The following report structure will be presented:
 - Scrutiny Recommendations (from previous reporting year)
 - Safeguarding Training Data and outcomes
 - Developments this year, including a review of the Corporate Safeguarding Work Plan
 - Key data for Safeguarding
 - Annual Review of Newport City Council Corporate Safeguarding Self -Assessment Audit (New 2021)
 - Future Work, Areas of stress/ risk, and Recommendations
 - Corporate Safeguarding Work Plan (Current/ Future Year)
 - Resource Implications
- 2.6 Scrutiny have previously been advised of the new and increased number of Quality Standards (Key Performance Indicators) associated with 'Safeguarding' required to be reported to Welsh Government from April 2021 (from 3 to 26). As scrutiny of that data remains the responsibility of Scrutiny for the Annual Director's Report for Social Services, there is no expectation on members of this group to formally comment on the data however, where possible, a selection of this data has been shared for context purposes when considering how effective safeguarding performance is being achieved within Council services.

Previous Consideration of Corporate Safeguarding

- 2.7 At the last Scrutiny Committee review in [July 2021](#), the Committee made the following comments to the [Cabinet](#):
- The Committee wished to recommend more monitoring the resources for the safeguarding team as they appreciated the increased need for it due to the 10% increase of referrals.
 - The Committee expressed their gratitude for the difficult job that the service area do. It was mentioned that the report itself was more of the operational side and did not give much insight into the underlying difficulties that they face and the issue of the report of the performance measures will not be published until June 2022.
 - The Committee requested that the Corporate Safeguarding provide more details on frequent problems, avoiding the confidentiality risk of certain details being shared.
 - The Committee also recommended that they remove the option for the scrutiny committee to comment on the Safeguarding staff structure and if it is fit for purpose. The members felt it would not be for them to comment on such an important structure that they do not have a good understanding of

- 2.7 As Scrutiny is not a decision-making forum, the Scrutiny Committee's review and subsequent comments / recommendations on this matter will be reported to the Cabinet for consideration and action.
- 2 As Elected Members, and Scrutiny Members, the Committee has an important role in considering the arrangements that the Council has in place for Safeguarding, Corporately and for those in direct contact with vulnerable groups.

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

- 3.1 Attached at **Appendix 1** is the Annual Corporate Safeguarding Executive Summary update. This report provides key information on the topic of "safeguarding" for members, provides information on how well the Council is achieving on its safeguarding arrangements, and provides a specific focus on the areas in which the performance is AMBER or RED.

4. Suggested Areas of Focus

Role of the Committee

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

- Establish whether associated key priorities and themes are appropriately addressed within the Action Plan (2022/2023) and planned actions are geared to meet the objectives within the timescale concerned.
- Determine whether there are any perceived areas of practice where objectives are not effectively addressed or met (both Corporate or within specific work plans of the Safeguarding Board)
- Consider whether the structure for the Newport Safeguarding Unit Structure and Individual Teams Key Priority Plans is appropriate to meet the Council's responsibilities for safeguarding matters.
- Consider whether an adequate monitoring and performance management framework and measures are in place to ensure an appropriate level of management on an ongoing basis and to consider possible arrangements for the Committee to implement.
- Work towards a parity of approach with corporate safeguarding colleagues across the region to implement joint Wales Audit Office recommendations and Welsh Government Corporate Safeguarding guidance to enable bench marking.
- Consider the level of planning and future provision of suitable training through a range of opportunities for Members in their roles as Councillors and Members of Scrutiny Committees.

Section B – Supporting Information

5 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

- The Annual Corporate Safeguarding report has links to both the *Aspirational People* and *Resilient Communities* Corporate Plan Commitments and the related Wellbeing Objectives:

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

6 Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

5 Ways of Working	Types of Questions to consider:
<p>Long-term The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.</p>	<p>Can the Officers provide actions to any of the Amber and Red</p> <p>Are there any long term trends developing that could affect how this plan is implemented to how the actions are prioritised?</p>
<p>Prevention Prevent problems occurring or getting worse.</p>	<p>How are you ensuring that the needs of the service users monitored and are taken into account when developing the long term strategy?</p>
<p>Integration Considering how public bodies' wellbeing objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.</p>	<p>How does the Council's implementation of the plan impact upon the services of other public bodies and their objectives?</p>
<p>Collaboration Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the organisation itself).</p>	<p>How are you using the knowledge / information / good practice of others to inform / influence the Council's work?</p>
<p>Involvement The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.</p>	<p>How as a Council are we ensuring we are consistently seeking the views of those who are impacted through the implementation of the plan?</p> <p>While developing a long term strategy, how are you ensuring the diverse communities are involved in your decision making?</p>

7. Background Papers

Include all additional documents that are referenced in the report, and those that you have used as background reading. Hyperlink to online versions of them if available.

- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Corporate Plan](#)
- [Social Services and Wellbeing \(Wales\) Act 2014](#)
- [Children \(Wales\) Act 2020](#)
- [Previous Scrutiny Consideration of the Annual Safeguarding Report](#)
- [Previous Cabinet Consideration of the Annual Safeguarding Report](#)

Report Completed: September 2022