

Corporate Safeguarding Board – Annual Report 2015/16

Reason for the Report

1. The Community and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee has responsibility for scrutinising the performance of Social Services - Adults. This report provides the Members with a copy of the draft '*Corporate Safeguarding Board Annual Report 2015/16*', attached at **Appendix A**, prior to its consideration by Corporate Parenting Panel on 19 July 2016.

Scope of Scrutiny

2. The scope of this scrutiny is to consider the proposed Draft '*Corporate Safeguarding Board Annual Report – 2015/16*', and assess whether the Board has appropriately addressed the Wales Audit Office's six recommendations.
3. Members may also wish to review and assess the key achievements for the year, and pass any observations, comments or recommendations to the Chair of the Board, Cllr Graham Hinchey and the Director of Social Services with regards to the progress made.

Background

4. Corporate Safeguarding is the activity required by all Council Directorates to effectively protect the health, wellbeing and human rights of children and adults so that they are able to live free from harm, abuse and neglect.
5. In October 2014, the Wales Audit Office released an inspection report on Corporate Safeguarding. The Director of Social Services prepared a

response to the inspection recommendations entitled '*Corporate Safeguarding Governance*', which was approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 2 July 2015. The report papers are available at:
<http://cardiff.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s4497/Item%205%20Cabinet%202%20July%202015%20Safeguarding.pdf>

6. The report set out proposals to strengthen Corporate Safeguarding by establishing a Corporate Safeguarding Board, with an Action Plan to support the implementation of the recommendations arising from the Wales Audit Office inspection.
7. The Corporate Safeguarding Board was established in March 2015. The Board met on four occasions during 2015-16 to work towards implementing the agreed Action Plan. The Action Plan contained the following actions, shown at **Appendix B**; Members are asked to note that these actions are RAG rated according to their priority rather than completion status:

CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING GOVERNANCE

- To establish the Corporate Safeguarding Board (CSB).
- To determine the annual Work Programme.
- To produce an annual Corporate Safeguarding Report and establish arrangements to present to relevant Scrutiny committees annually.
- To develop a tool for compiling annual safeguarding compliance returns from each directorate.

SAFEGUARDING AWARENESS

- Revise / develop a Corporate Safeguarding Training and Development Programme for staff.
- Revise / develop a Corporate Safeguarding Training and Development Programme for Members.
- Finalise and publicise a Council Safeguarding Policy and Protocol for members and officers, identifying the Council's Lead Safeguarding Officer, key officer and members roles and responsibilities.
- To agree appropriate policy in relation to the appointment of school governors.

PERFORMANCE MONITORING

- Verification that all of those who work with Children within the Local Authority have an up to date DBS.
 - Undertake Compliance Audit against Pembrokeshire Report and other safeguarding requirements (e.g. DBS).
 - Undertake an audit of professional strategy meetings processes
 - Agree an audit programme for 2016-17.
 - Develop a suite of Corporate Safeguarding indicators to promote transparent governance and accountability.
8. Council's Standards and Ethics Committee, at its meeting on 15 December 2015, considered a draft Protocol to provide guidance and advice to elected Members on their roles and responsibilities in relation to safeguarding vulnerable children and adults. This was subsequently approved by Council in January 2016.

Annual Report

9. The draft '*Corporate Safeguarding Board Annual Report 2015/16*', attached at **Appendix A**, includes the following elements:
- a. Wales Audit Office proposals for improvement
 - b. Governance arrangements
 - c. Key achievements
 - d. Overall evaluation
 - e. Future work programme
 - f. Proposed Action Plan 2016/17.
10. The terms of reference require that the Board advise the Head of the Paid Service and recommend relevant action in relation to corporate safeguarding standards and policy. No recommendations were made during 2015/16, but work throughout the year built towards presenting recommendations, early in 2016/17, on vetting and barring, training and performance. The Chair and members of the Board rated performance of the board over the year as six out of ten with the prospect of now having sufficient engagement to be able to accelerate performance during 2016/17.

Previous Scrutiny

11. The Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee considered the draft report at their meeting on 14 June 2016 and sent a letter containing their thoughts on the draft report to Councillor Hinchey. This letter is attached at **Appendix C** for Members' information.

Way Forward

12. Members are invited to consider the information set out in the attached reports at **Appendices A, B and C** and to identify any issues on which they would wish to receive further information.
13. Councillor Graham Hinchey (Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Performance) has been invited and may make a statement¹. Tony Young, Director of Social Services has been invited to comment on the draft Annual report.

Legal Implications

14. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend, but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to the Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the

¹ Please note that Cllr Hinchey is required to attend another meeting in the evening and will need to leave Committee at 17.30pm.

Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

15. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend, but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is recommended to consider the contents of the draft '*Corporate Safeguarding Board Annual Report 2015/16*' attached at **Appendix A** and provide the Cabinet Member and Director of Social Services with any observations, comments or recommendations, prior to the Corporate Parenting Panel's consideration of the report.

DAVID MARR
Interim Monitoring Officer
30 June 2016