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GOHEBIAETH YN DILYN CYFARFOD Y PWYLLGOR

Pwyllgor PWYLLGOR CRAFFU GWASANAETHAU OEDOLION A CHYMUNEDOL

Dyddiad ac amser y cyfarfod DYDD MERCHER, 18 IONAWR 2017, 5.00 PM

Gweler isod gohebiaeth anfon gan Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor ar ôl y cyfarfod , ynghyd ag unrhyw ymatebion a gafwyd

Am unrhyw fanylion pellach, cysylltwch â scrutinyviewpoints@cardiff.gov.uk

9 **Gohebiaeth Yn dilyn Cyfarfod y Pwyllgor** (*Tudalennau 1 - 4*)

Mae'r dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol

My Ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/Cllr McGarry

24 January 2017

Councillor Susan Elsmore
Cabinet Member
c/o Room 520
County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW



Dear Susan

Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee – 18 January 2017

On behalf of the Members of the Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee, I would like to thank you and all the representatives of the Safeguarding Adults Regional Board Cardiff and The Vale of Glamorgan for attending for scrutiny of Adult Safeguarding.

Members were pleased to hear about the progress already made in response to the new duties regarding Adult Safeguarding set out in the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, which, for ease, I shall refer to as the Act in the remainder of this letter. In particular, Members note: the establishment of the Regional Board; the creation of two authorising officers for the new Adult Protection and Safety Orders; and that Adult Services staff have been trained in the new adult safeguarding definitions and responsibilities as set out in the Act.

Members have comments, observations and recommendations to make to the Council as well as to the Board and so I have separated these out, using sub-headings.

Safeguarding Adults Regional Board Cardiff and The Vale of Glamorgan

It was evident to Members that there are good relationships between the representatives of the Board who were at the meeting. Members also felt that the representatives' intentions were good and were pleased that there was clear recognition that it was still early days for the Board and that it has a long way to go. Members note the intention is for the Board to be more purposeful than its' predecessor was.

Members were interested to hear that the colocation of staff at the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is working well; Members note the joint working and training taking place, required to ensure meaningful working. Members are pleased to note that representatives at this meeting recognised the need to continue this. **Members recommend** that members of the Regional Board work together to put in place joint training to ensure that all staff who are involved in investigations are able to gather and record evidence to PACE standards, whether or not a criminal investigation results. This is to ensure that the Board acts on the findings of the Operation Jasmine review. This review found that poor evidence gathering and record keeping meant that crucial links were not made, meaning abuse and neglect were not stopped as soon as they could have been. The Committee believes that Gwent Police may have already commenced joint training on PACE standards in their area. Members were pleased to hear Supt Stephen Jones being supportive of this approach.

Members were also reassured to hear that, as part of establishment of the MASH, the WASPI policies and procedures have recently been reviewed to ensure that they are fit for purpose.

With regard to investigations, Members recognise that there will be a Designated Lead Manager; however, they must be able to draw on the resources across all areas to ensure the investigation has breadth and depth.

Members recognise that more awareness raising needs to take place to ensure individuals, families, neighbours and communities are aware of adult safeguarding and about how they can refer issues and concerns. This would help to address concerns about possible safeguarding issues for adults who are self-funding care and support. As part of boosting awareness, and in order to ensure the Council and partners meet their responsibilities under the Act, **Members would like to receive assurance** that all staff will be made aware of their duty under the Act to report adults at risk and that they will be informed of how to do this.

Members were interested to hear that partners on the Board are working together to improve referrals processes. Members are aware of the need to address barriers to referrals, particularly for groups that research has shown to be under-represented in safeguarding referrals, including older people from black and ethnic minorities, older people who are homeless, have mental health problems and/ or substance misuse. It was reassuring to hear that partners recognised this and that steps are being taken to address barriers, by building relationships with relevant agencies, including BAWSO and mosques.

Members thank the Board for sharing their draft Business Plan with them. Members note the priority areas and the action plans for these. However, the Business Plan does not clearly show how the core functions of the Board are to be delivered. Members could infer that some of the sub-groups will implement some of the core functions. However, Members believe it would be better to set out how each of the core functions will be met. **Members recommend** that the Business Plan is amended to include a table that lists the functions and, for each of these, states how these functions will be delivered.

Members believe that the Regional Board has the opportunity to build a relationship with the National Board, with the overall goal of strengthening adult safeguarding across Wales. To this end, Members believe that there are two clear areas where the Regional Board should make recommendations to the National Board. Therefore, **Members recommend** that the Regional Board agree to recommend to the National Board that the National Board work to ensure that all Elected Members receive DBS checks. Elected Members have the opportunity to be in unsupervised contact with vulnerable children and adults as part of their everyday ward work. It is therefore essential that each elected member has a DBS check. This cannot be undertaken at present and requires a change from Welsh Government; the National Board is ideally placed to raise this with the Welsh Government and to work to see the changes introduced. Secondly, **Members recommend** that the Regional Board recommend to the National Board that the National Board take the lead in developing and agreeing national data definitions. These would certainly assist in the development of meaningful and useful performance indicators for adult safeguarding that reflect partnership work.

Members note the intention to establish a business unit to support the Board and sub-groups. **Members would like to know** if this unit is to lead on the development of the proposed suite of performance management indicators, discussed at the meeting. Members would be interested to see these indicators once they are developed.

Cardiff Council

Our final comments, observations and recommendations relate solely to the work of the Council rather than the work of the Board and all its partners.

Given the importance of adult safeguarding and the fact that Members come into contact with many people via their ward work, **Members recommend** that there is training on adult safeguarding for all Members elected in May 2017 and that it forms part of the mandatory induction training so that all Members have to attend.

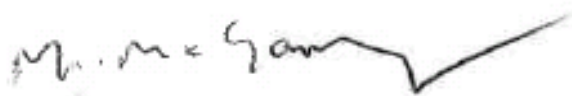
Following discussion at Committee, **Members wish to receive clarification** about whether safeguarding concerns can be raised about council service provision, (for example if a care worker either does not turn up to provide care or is abusive to the service user), and whether the Council will deal with it as a safeguarding issue rather than as a complaint. Members believe the examples given should be dealt with as a safeguarding issue but wish to receive a response on this.

Finally, Members note that officers believe that a review of POVA processes is required in order to make them fit for purpose given the legislative changes brought in by the Act. These changes came into force on 6 April 2016. **Members wish to be informed** what the timescales for the review of POVA processes are. **Members also seek assurance** about what is happening in the meantime, given that the old threshold focused on significant harm and the new requirements focus on risk to an individual.

This Committee will be recommending to a future committee that they look again at adult safeguarding and receive the annual report and business plan of the Regional Board.

This letter requires a response, please, as it contains several recommendations and requests for assurance and information.

Yours sincerely,



COUNTY COUNCILLOR MARY M^CGARRY

Chairperson - Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee

Cc:	Tony Young	Director of Social Services
	Amanda Phillips	Assistant Director of Social Services - Adults
	Alys Jones	Operational Manager – Safeguarding
	Sheila Harrison	Acting Deputy Director of Nursing – Cardiff & Vale UHB
	Linda Hugh-Jones	Head of Safeguarding – Cardiff & Vale UHB
	Supt Stephen Jones	South Wales Police
	Liz Patterson	Personal Assistant
	Matt Swindell	Cabinet Office

Mae'r dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol