
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING BOARD - POLICY REVIEW AND PROGRESS REPORT

Purpose of Report

1. This report provides the Committee with an opportunity to carry out pre-decision scrutiny of two draft proposals for **Safeguarding**, namely:

- Corporate Safeguarding Policy (including a Modern Slavery Statement); and
- Corporate Safeguarding Board Progress Report

Both proposals will be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on the 24 January 2019.

2. The Safeguarding Policy Proposal is attached at **Appendix 1**, which in turn contains the Policy document at *Appendix A* and Modern Slavery Statement at *Appendix B*.

3. The Corporate Safeguarding Board Progress Report Proposal is attached at **Appendix 2**, which in turn has the Progress Report at *Appendix C*.

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 at risk so that they are able to live free from harm, abuse and neglect. In accordance with legislative requirements set out in the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act (2014) (SSWBA).
5. Safeguarding is everybody's business and the SSWBA imposes a duty on local authorities, all Members and employees, and other statutory partners to report all safeguarding concerns to relevant safeguarding departments. This is known as the duty to report. In order to effectively implement these duties and activities, the council must ensure that all staff are compliant with, and fully understand their duties under the SSWBA.

Corporate Safeguarding Board Policy

6. In November 2017, the Corporate Safeguarding Board (CSB) published its first Corporate Safeguarding Policy (CSP) – **attached at Appendix 1**. The policy covers the work of all Council services staff, members, volunteers, partners and contractors. The CSB action plan requires the CSP to be reviewed annually. The revised policy aims to strengthen and widen the scope and activity of the local authority to meet all of its safeguarding functions. It aims to make clear the roles and responsibilities of officers and Members, and establish governance arrangements to support effective discharge of safeguarding responsibilities.
7. The policy incorporates the council's statutory duties in respect of Modern Day Slavery as required by the Modern Day Slavery Act (2015). The Council was the first signatory to the Welsh Government's Code of Practice: Ethical Procurement in Supply Chain, which includes a commitment to produce an annual Modern Slavery Statement. The Council has incorporated its Modern Slavery Statement into its Corporate Safeguarding Policy in recognition of the interconnections between safeguarding and modern day slavery. There is also operational alignment.

8. The CSP is a 3 year policy but will be reviewed annually, and revised as required.

Corporate Safeguarding Board Progress Report

9. In line with the expectations of the Corporate Safeguarding Board a report should be submitted to Cabinet, at least annually, informing them of progress to date and emerging actions and themes across the authority.

10. The progress report **attached at Appendix 2** provides an overview of Safeguarding within Cardiff for the last 18 months. In future, all reports will be on an annual basis, or more frequent if particular issues arise. Future reports will be based on a performance data set which allows reporting of progress and impact against a suite of measures which together allow a meaningful analysis to be made of the effectiveness of Corporate Safeguarding.

Issues

Corporate Safeguarding Board Policy

11. The Corporate Safeguarding Board Policy is attached at *Appendix A*. The Policy contains the following:

- Scope of the Policy (**Section 2**)
- Objectives of the Policy (**Section 3**)
- Principles of the Policy (**Section 4**)
- Legislative Context (**Section 5**)
- Governance Arrangements (**Section 6**) – *Regional Safeguarding Boards (a); Director of Social Services (b); Chief Executive (c); Leader (d); Cabinet Members (e); Directors (f); Assistant Directors in Social Services (g); OM, Safeguarding (h).*
- Roles and Responsibilities (**Section 7**) – *elected Members (a) CASSC and CYPSC (b); all staff (c); Safeguarding Unit (d); Assistant Directors (e); Directorate Lead Safeguarding Officers (f); Line Managers and supervisors*

(g); Contractors, sub-contractors or organisations funded by the Council (h); Agency workers (i).

- Quality Assurance (**Section 8**) – *Reporting and monitoring (a); Safeguarding self-evaluation audit framework (b); Internal Audit/External Regulators (c)*
- Safe Workforce (**Section 9**) – *recruitment, selection and management of the workforce (a); Whistleblowing (b); allegations against adults working with children young people or adults at risk (c); training (d); volunteering (e).*
- Preventative Approach (**Section 10**) – *counter terrorism/radicalisation; CSE; Self-harm/ Suicide; Modern slavery/ Trafficking; violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence.*
- Robust Protection (**Section 11**) – *Adult Protection (b); Allegations or concerns against adults (c)*
- Safe Services (**Section 12**) – *Commissioning Arrangements (a); Lettings and Hiring (b); Licensing (c); Education Establishments Roles and Responsibilities of Schools (d)*
- **Appendices 1-7**

12. The Cabinet Proposal also contains a **Modern Slavery Statement**, attached as *Appendix B*, which sets out the Council's commitment to tackling modern slavery. In March 2017, the Council became the first public body to sign the Welsh Government's Code of Practice: Ethical Employment in Supply Chains. The Statement covers the financial year 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.

Corporate Safeguarding Board Progress Report

13. Attached at **Appendix 2** is the Corporate Safeguarding Board's Progress Report and provides an overview of safeguarding within Cardiff during the period April 2017 to December 2018.

14. Sections 4 – 8 of the Progress Report set out "Key Achievements" against the seven headings developed by the Wales Audit Office, namely;

- Corporate Leadership (**Section 4.1**)
- Corporate Policy (**Section 4.2**)
- Safer Recruitment of Staff (**Section 4.3**)
- Training and Development (**Section 5**)
- Partners, Volunteers and Commissioned Services (**Section 6**)
- Systems (**Section 7**)
- Scrutiny and Assurance (**Section 8**)

15. **Section 9** of the Report details an evaluation of the Corporate Safeguarding Board itself; and **Section 10** summarises the CSB's future work programme. The Progress Report also contains progress against the 2017/18 Action Plan and Terms of Reference for the CSB.

16. Both Cabinet Proposals recommend that the Cabinet approve both the Policy and Progress Report, as appropriate.

Way Forward

17. At this meeting, Councillor Graham Hinchey (Cabinet Member for Children & Families) and Councillor Susan Elsmore (Cabinet Member for Social Care, Health & Well-Being) will be invited to make a statement. Claire Marchant (Director of Social Services) and Alys Jones (Operational Manager, Safeguarding) have been invited to give a presentation and answer Members' questions.

18. Pre-decision scrutiny aims to inform the Cabinet's decisions by making evidence based recommendations. Scrutiny Members are advised to:

- a. look at the information provided in the report to Cabinet to see if this is sufficient to enable the Cabinet to make an informed decision;
- b. check the financial implications section of the Cabinet report to be aware of the advice given;
- c. check the legal implications section of the Cabinet report to be aware of the advice given;
- d. check the recommendations to Cabinet to see if these are appropriate.

19. Members will then be able to decide what comments, observations or recommendations they wish to pass on to the Cabinet for their consideration prior to making their decisions on the 24 January 2019.

Legal Implications

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

Financial Implications

21. 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to:

- i. consider the information set out in the Safeguarding Policy Proposal attached at **Appendix 1**; and the Corporate Safeguarding Board Progress Report Proposal is attached at **Appendix 2**;
- ii. consider the information provided in the presentation to this meeting; and
- iii. decide whether it wishes to relay any comments or observations to the Cabinet at its meeting on the 24 January 2019; and decide the way forward with regard to any further scrutiny of this issue.

DAVINA FIORE

Director of Governance and Legal Services

3 January 2019