

My Ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/Cllr McGarry

15 January 2019

Councillor Chris Weaver
Cabinet Member for Finance & Modernisation and Chair of the
Corporate Safeguarding Board
County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW



Dear Chris,

**COMMUNITY & ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 9 JANUARY 2019
– SAFEGUARING POLICY REVIEW AND PROGRESS REPORT**

As Chair of the Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee, I wish to thank you and officers for attending Committee and providing Members with an opportunity to consider the draft proposals in relation to Safeguarding Policy Review and Progress Report, prior to its consideration by Cabinet on the 24th January 2019. Members of the Committee have requested that I feed back the following comments and observations to you.

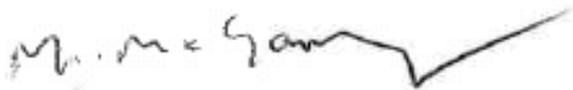
The Committee considered the Cabinet Proposal and concluded that it supports the proposals and commends the report to Cabinet. Other issues raised by Members included:

- Members noted that the Social Services and Well-being Act had brought about significant changes in legislative terms, including strengthening the position regarding vulnerable adults and the duty to report. Members acknowledged that there had been increased recognition that Safeguarding needed to be strengthened; there had been serious incidents that had occurred nationally and incremental escalation over many years; and the Act consolidated all previous legislation and made the position regarding Safeguarding clear.
- Members were assured, by responses from yourself and officers, that Safeguarding has been given the recognition and priority required and that you had stated that you are committed to ensuring that this remains the case, particularly in terms of ensuring the sustainability and effective operation of the Corporate Safeguarding Board.

- Members were concerned with issues relating to ensuring that incidents were reported and recorded centrally within the Council as this had not been the information provided to them previously. Members noted, from the report, that there was a recognition for everyone to fully understand their duty to report, so would recommend, as a matter of priority, an audit of sources of referrals and also work with Communications to generate further publicity, across the Council and schools, about it being everyone's duty to report, and who they should report to.
- At the meeting, Members asked whether there was a central database where all referrals were recorded and, if so, how this was managed. Members noted that, currently, a spreadsheet of referrals is in operation, but would recommend that a system that is fit for purpose is introduced as a matter of priority.
- At the meeting, Members were advised that Audit Committee had proved very useful in this area and would strongly urge that you and officers continue to work with Scrutiny on this issue to assist you in your work.

Thank you again to you and officers for attending. I hope you find the Committee's comments useful. I do not require a response to this letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary McGarry', with a stylized flourish at the end.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR MARY M^CGARRY
Chairperson - Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee

Cc: Claire Marchant (Director of Social Services)
Alys Jones (Operational Manager, Safeguarding)
Cabinet Support Office