
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY 2022-2025

Purpose of Report

1. The draft Cabinet Report, attached at **Appendix A** proposes the Council's Corporate Safeguarding Policy 2022-2025.
2. The Cabinet Report, and the proposed draft policy, will be considered by Cabinet at their meeting on 15 December 2022. The purpose of this Cover Report is to provide Members with background information, and to act as a signposting tool to enable their consideration of the policy.
3. Committee Members are advised that **Appendix 1** includes the following:
 - Draft Corporate Safeguarding Policy 2022-2025

The Draft Corporate Safeguarding Policy also includes the following Appendices:

- Appendix A: Corporate Safeguarding Board's Terms of Reference
- Appendix B: Role Description for Designated Safeguarding Person (DSP)
- Appendix C: Corporate Safeguarding Self-Evaluation Audit to be complete by the Council's directorates
- Appendix D & E: Overview of the Council's Corporate Safeguarding Training Framework

Scope of Scrutiny

4. The purpose of the Corporate Safeguarding Policy is to set the Council's commitment to safeguarding, and in turn, the Council's corporate response. Its aim is to ensure the Council has robust arrangements in place so that the whole of the Council's workforce, meet the statutory duties to safeguard Adults and Children.
5. Committee Members are advised that the remit of this scrutiny is to consider the proposed policy, from an overarching perspective. Should a Member wish to raise a specific matter in relation to safeguarding, it must pertain to the safeguarding of adults in line with the Committee's terms of remit.
6. Committee Members are advised the Council's Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee will be considering the policy from the perspective of safeguarding children.
7. Committee Members are reminded that in their July 2022 meeting, Committee Members raised their concerns in relation to low result of council staff completing mandatory safeguarding modules (2021/22 result – 65.29% result against a target of 85%). At the same meeting, Committee Members noted that the 2022-2023 Performance & Partnership Delivery Plan, identified potential future risks surrounding Corporate Safeguarding and so, their Delivery Plan identified the following actions would be carried out in 2022/2023:
 - *Agree and implement new corporate safeguarding self-evaluation and ensure that all actions identified are including in Directorate Delivery Plans;*
 - *Deliver training on use of training dashboard and pilot approach to training for front line staff;*
 - *Review and refresh Corporate Safeguarding Policy in line with national guidance.*
8. The proposed policy attached at **Appendix 1**, relates to the identified actions listed in the above paragraph.

9. During this scrutiny, Members will have the opportunity to:

- Explore how the policy was designed, and if, or how it may deviate from previous policies.
- Consider if the policy meets the statutory duties as set out in the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act and Wales Safeguarding Procedures 2019 (*which are summarised later in this Cover Report*).
- Investigate how the policy will be put into practice.
- Assess the governance arrangements for the policy, including the self-evaluation process
- Explore the arrangements with partners, in particular Regional Partnership Boards
- Determine if the policy meets its objective of providing assurance to members of the public, service users, Elected Members, employees and people working on behalf of the Council that there is clear arrangements in place to safeguard and protect children and adults.

10. Councillor Chris Weaver (Cabinet Member –Finance, Modernisation & Performance), Councillor Norma Mackie (Cabinet Member – Adult Services) and officers from Performance & Partnerships and Adult Services will be available to answer Members' questions and facilitate consideration of this policy.

11. Following Committee Members' review of the draft policy, they will decide what comments, observations or recommendations they wish to pass on to the Cabinet for their consideration.

Overview of Safeguarding

12. The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 sets out the duties and responsibilities for local authorities and relevant partner organisations¹ with regard to safeguarding.

¹ The Act defines relevant partners as the police, other local authorities, probation, local health boards and NHS trusts.

13. Part 7 of the Act details the specific duties and requirements regarding safeguarding. Other parts of the Act also apply to safeguarding cases, such as the overarching duty to promote well-being, to have regard to people's individuality, dignity and views, and support them to participate including considering whether advocacy support is necessary.
14. [The Wales Safeguarding Procedures 2019](#) provides guidance for anyone working with adults or children in Wales. A summary of the guidance is as follows:
- Ensure practitioners understand their role and responsibilities
 - Provide guidance to enable practitioners to identify and address care and support needs
 - Ensure practice is in accordance with the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and accompanying [Working Together to Safeguard People guidance](#);
 - Recognise the importance of engaging with the person and risk and their family members (providing this does not put them at harm)
 - Promote positive outcomes by improving the daily lived experience of adults at risk
 - Secure effective partnership working
 - Facilitate assessments, plans and interventions that are person-centred
 - Enable managers and supervisors to guide and support staff on matters relating to safeguarding
 - Draw on research and best practice to inform decision-making
 - Offer a framework enabling Regional Safeguarding Boards and agency managers to ensure practice is in accordance with statutory roles
 - Enable Regional Safeguarding to evaluate the quality of local safeguarding practice and provide local challenge.

Background – Purpose of the Policy

15. As detailed in **point 3** of the draft Cabinet Report, this policy's objective is to keep children and adults at risk safe by:

- ❖ Creating and maintaining a safe environment
- ❖ Identifying where there are concerns and taking action to address them in partnership with other agencies
- ❖ Prevent unsuitable people from working with children and adults at risk
- ❖ Ensure the whole workforce understands safeguarding and their accountabilities and responsibilities
- ❖ Promote safe practice and challenge poor and unsafe practice
- ❖ In partnership with other public bodies and across the city, considering the risks that environments may present to children and adults at risk

16. To achieve the above-mentioned objectives, the Corporate Safeguarding Board identified the following thematic areas of focus for the policy:

➤ **Safe Governance**

*Detailed in **points 8 – 11** of the draft Cabinet Report and **pages 14 – 21** of Appendix 1*

➤ **Safe Employment**

*Detailed in **points 12 – 13** of the draft Cabinet Report and **pages 23 – 25** of Appendix 1*

➤ **Safe Workforce**

*Detailed in **points 14 – 16** of the draft Cabinet Report and **pages 27 – 28** of Appendix 1*

➤ **Safe Practice**

*Detailed in **points 17 – 18** of the draft Cabinet Report and **pages 30 – 38** of Appendix 1*

➤ **Safe Partnerships**

*Detailed in **points 19 – 20** of the draft Cabinet Report and **pages 40 – 42** of Appendix 1*

Background – Governance Arrangements

17. As mentioned in the draft Cabinet Report, the proposed policy spans three years but will be reviewed annually by the Council's Corporate Safeguarding Board with detail of their review being included in their Annual Safeguarding Reports.

18. As stated in **point 7** of this Cover Report, the Performance & Partnership 2022/23 Directorate Delivery Plan identified a need for stronger corporate safeguarding self-evaluation and so, within each of the Council's directorates review they will undertake an annual safeguarding self-assessment to critically consider their own practice, procedures, systems and culture. Areas identified for improvement will then be included in the Directorate's Delivery Plan – with progress against their actions being monitored via the Council Corporate Performance Management Framework (at mid-year and year end).

Legal Implications

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

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 provided in this report, its Appendices and information received at the meeting;
- ii. Decide what any comments or observations it wishes to relay to the Cabinet.

DAVINA FIORE

Director of Governance and Legal Services

6 Dec 2022