

Meeting of:	<b>Cabinet</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>Monday, 18 November 2019</b>
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	All Scrutiny Committees
Report Title:	Corporate Safeguarding Summary Report – November 2019
Purpose of Report:	To update Cabinet on the work that has been undertaken in relation to Corporate arrangements for Safeguarding across the Council. To provide assurance and understanding around safeguarding activity taking place across the Council.
Report Owner:	Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health
Responsible Officer:	Director of Social Services
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	This is an issue which affects all areas of the Vale of Glamorgan Corporate Management Team
Policy Framework:	This is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet
<p><b>Executive Summary:</b></p> <p>This mid-term summary provides an overview of the priorities of the Corporate Safeguarding Group work plan and work plan updates.</p> <p>There is Corporate responsibility to ensure that there are effective arrangements in place for safeguarding children and adults who require specific Council services.</p>	

## **Recommendations**

1. That Cabinet notes the work that has been undertaken to improve corporate arrangements for safeguarding and protecting children and adults.
2. That Cabinet continues to receive six monthly reports on work carried out to improve Corporate Safeguarding arrangements and the effectiveness of relevant Policies.
3. That the report is referred to Healthy Living and Social Care, Learning and Culture, Home and Safe Communities, Corporate Performance and Resources and Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committees for consideration.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

1. To ensure that Cabinet is aware of recent developments in corporate arrangements for safeguarding.
2. To allow Cabinet to exercise effective oversight of this key area of corporate working.
3. To respond to requests that each Scrutiny Committee is provided with update reports.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 was implemented in April 2016. This has brought about changes in particular relating to the introduction of a 'Duty to Report' which has meant a revision of the corporate safeguarding policy to bring staff's attention to this duty.
- 1.2 The 'Working Together to Safeguard People Guidance' under Part 7 of the Act provides guidance on corporate safeguarding for the council. Guidance on handling individual cases (Volumes 5 and 6) to protect children and adults at risk was launched in 2017. The Guidance provides advice on what should happen if an individual has concerns about the well-being or welfare of a child or an adult at risk.

## **2. Key Issues for Consideration**

- 2.1 The Welsh Audit Office undertook a follow-up of their 2014 review of Corporate Safeguarding arrangements in February 2019 and issued their final report in May 2019. The purpose of the review was to seek assurance that the Council had effective corporate arrangements in place and had addressed the findings and recommendations from their 2014 report and the subsequent recommendations made.
- 2.2 The 2019 review found that overall the council had implemented most of the previous recommendations and proposals for improvement, however some areas needed further attention. They have identified five areas for improvement

to strengthen aspects of the council's safeguarding arrangements. The areas for improvements are detailed within the Corporate Safeguarding Group's (CSG) work plan and incorporates not just these recommendations but other areas of business.

- 2.3** The CSG has structured its priorities and planning around 5 key areas including Corporate Leadership; Corporate Policy; Scrutiny and Assurance; Safer Recruitment and finally Training. Detailed below is an update on the requirements of each key objective area.

#### **Corporate Leadership**

The attendance and participation the Corporate Safeguarding Group is closely monitored.

The Lead Member for Safeguarding is represented within the Corporate Safeguarding Group.

Membership and areas of responsibility for those within CSG is available on the Corporate Safeguarding Page.

Presentation of the CSG report and work plan at various Scrutiny Committees ensures a strengthening of the role of scrutiny in providing assurance regarding corporate safeguarding arrangements.

#### **Corporate Policy**

The role of corporate safeguarding is known and understood throughout the Local Authority with a shared understanding that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

All employees, volunteers including school governors, elected members, contractors and partners are aware of their responsibility to comply with local and national Safeguarding Policies and Procedures.

The profile of good safeguarding practice is a core part of the work of the council.

#### **Scrutiny & Assurance**

Safeguarding activity across the Local Authority is known and understood.

Risks associated with safeguarding are considered at a corporate and service level.

Local Authority Directorates, employees and volunteers are compliant with Safeguarding Policy and practice.

All Local Authority employees, volunteers and contractors are aware of the consequences of non-compliance with Safeguarding Policy.

The Council will produce further performance measures (for example in respect of safeguarding training compliance) to enhance the annual safeguarding report and aid transparency.

## **Safer Recruitment**

Assurance that all relevant council appointments are compliant with Safer Recruitment Policy that covers all services that come into contact with children and adults at risk.

All Local Authority recruiting managers are aware of the consequences of non-compliance with Safer Recruitment Policy.

## **Training**

Expectations in relation to safeguarding training are known and understood across the Local Authority.

Employees, volunteers and agency staff are trained to fulfil a safeguarding function relevant to their role in the Local Authority.

Contracted services comply with safeguarding requirements outlined within all contracts.

Recording and monitoring volunteer of information, including any training records and Disclosure and Barring Service checks for volunteers.

Improve its approaches to safeguarding training by developing a training matrix relating to roles held.

The 2019/20 Corporate Safeguarding Annual Report will provide performance data in relation to the key areas identified above, this will be targeted information to provide assurances in relation to the key areas and actions.

## **3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?**

- 3.1** Long-term – Considering ability across Directorates to meet long-term demands and horizon scanning in relation to our safeguarding responsibilities.
- 3.2** Integration – Considering how the public body’s well-being objectives may impact upon each other of the well-being goals, on their objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.
- 3.3** Involvement – Ensuring voices of children and adult at risk are acknowledged and respected in all our interactions and service planning.
- 3.4** Collaboration – Cross Directorate ownership, accountability and understanding of our safeguarding roles and responsibilities.

## **4. Resources and Legal Considerations**

### **Financial**

- 4.1** There are no direct resource implications arising from the Corporate Safeguarding work. However, the increased awareness of safeguarding and the responsibility to respond to concerns of those who may not be eligible for our

services has brought about significant pressures within social services teams. Consequently we need to review processes to ensure clarity for people raising concerns about who responds to these enquiries/notifications about individuals who are considered 'at risk', but are not known or eligible for our statutory services.

- 4.2** The other financial implication of note is the resource that will be required to implement some areas of the Corporate Safeguarding Work Plan which Directorates will need to manage within their existing budgets.

### **Employment**

- 4.3** The Safer Recruitment Policy legitimately excludes consideration for appointment of all applicants for posts within regulated activity whose criminal actions/convictions mean that they are deemed unsuitable or who are included within the barred list.
- 4.4** Any application for employment for those posts included within the definition of regulated activity by candidates who are included on the relevant barred list will be considered a criminal act and reported to the Police and relevant registration body (if appropriate).
- 4.5** In relation to DBS arrangements, key elements of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 have been implemented.

### **Legal (Including Equalities)**

- 4.6** Legislation requires the Local Authority to make arrangements for ensuring the function to discharge their duties, having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults at risk. The Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and codes of practice issued under the Act, makes it clear that Safeguarding Children and Adults at risk of abuse and neglect is everyone's responsibility.
- 4.7** The Director of Social Services must ensure effective safeguarding arrangements are in place, both within the Local Authority and by relevant Partners. The Director of Social Services must oversee and report to Councillors, on a consistent basis regarding the operation, monitoring and improvement of child and adult safeguarding systems within the Local Authority. Defined arrangements with other Officers within the Local Authority, particularly the Head of Adult Services and Head of Children Services must be clear in relation to delegation and reporting arrangements relating to safeguarding issues.

## **5. Background Papers**

<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Committee%20Reports/Cabinet/2019/19-07-29/Annual-Corporate-Safeguarding-Report.pdf>