

Scrutiny Report



Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Part 1

Date: May 2023

Subject Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report

Author Scrutiny Adviser

The following people have been invited to attend for this item:

Invitee:	Area / Role / Subject
Finn Madell	Head of Corporate Safeguarding
Mary Ryan	Head of Adult Services
Natalie Poyner	Head of Children's Services
Sally Ann Jenkins	Strategic Director for Social Services
Cllr Stephen Marshall	Cabinet Member for Social Services (Job Share)
Cllr Jason Hughes	Cabinet Member for Social Services (Job Share)

Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

1 Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked to

1. Consider the Annual Corporate Safeguarding Executive Summary report, to scrutinise and review the progress of the key priority work plans for both corporate safeguarding arrangements and the safeguarding self- assessment findings for the whole Council.
2. Determine if it wishes to make any comment / recommendations to Cabinet regarding the report and the how the Council is managing corporate safeguarding.

2 Context

Background

- 2.1 This is the sixth review of the Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report.
- 2.2 In order for the authority to comply with the [Social Services and Wellbeing \(Wales\) Act 2014](#), change to culture and practice has been required. This has seen a move toward social care that 'promotes the wellbeing of people and carers who need care and/or support'.
- 2.3 Respecting the wishes of the committee to provide only streamlined and targeted information within the report (February 2021), revisions to the format and data presented have been made to this report. Therefore, the changes are as follows;
 - Safeguarding team specific plans are no longer reported, only where key issues are identified will these be shared with members for their scrutiny.
 - The following report structure will be presented:
 - Scrutiny Recommendations (from previous reporting year)
 - Safeguarding Training Data and outcomes
 - Developments this year, including a review of the Corporate Safeguarding Work Plan
 - Key data for Safeguarding
 - Annual Review of Newport City Council Corporate Safeguarding Self -Assessment Audit (New 2021)
 - Future Work, Areas of stress/ risk, and Recommendations
 - Corporate Safeguarding Work Plan (Current/ Future Year)
 - Resource Implications
- 2.5 Scrutiny have previously been advised of the new and increased number of Quality Standards (Key Performance Indicators) associated with 'Safeguarding' required to be reported to Welsh Government from April 2021 (from 3 to 26). As scrutiny of that data remains the responsibility of Scrutiny for the Annual Director's Report for Social Services, there is no expectation on members of this group to formally comment on the data however, where possible, a selection of this data has been shared for context purposes when considering how effective safeguarding performance is being achieved within Council services.
- 2.6 As Scrutiny is not a decision-making forum, the Scrutiny Committee's review and subsequent comments / recommendations on this matter will be reported to the Cabinet for consideration and action.

- 2.7 As Elected Members, and Scrutiny Members, the Committee has an important role in considering the arrangements that the Council has in place for Safeguarding, Corporately and for those in direct contact with vulnerable groups.

Previous Consideration of Corporate Safeguarding

- 2.6 At the last Scrutiny Committee review in [September 2022](#) and it went to the [November 2022 Cabinet](#). Comments as recorded in the minutes are:
- The Committee welcomed the report and thanked Officers for their hard work. Members wanted it recognised that they appreciate that this specific area of work is extremely difficult.
 - The Committee were pleased to note that the Service Area listened to the comments and recommendations that were made in last year's meeting and made the appropriate amendments.
 - The Committee felt that more specific data was needed throughout the report to contextualise information given, such as percentages so Members can have a clearer picture of comparison. Members also queried if it could be possible to find out in the percentages of how many children in the figures are the same child being safeguarded, and how many are single incident children.
 - The Committee asked that the area of focus regarding whether "the structure for the Newport Safeguarding Unit Structure and Individual Teams Key Priority Plans is appropriate to meet the Council's responsibilities for safeguarding matters" be removed as it was outside of the Committee's expertise.
 - The Committee asked for an update regarding training progress be given to committee including more specific data to contextualise any information given, such as percentages to how many staff members have completed the training. Members also queried if it would be possible to have update on figures such as training and referrals received, on a half yearly basis.

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

- 3.1 Attached at **Appendix 1** is the Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report. It includes information on:
- Legislation
 - Previous Scrutiny Recommendations
 - Safeguarding Training Data and Outcomes
 - Developments this year
 - The Reviewed Annual Corporate Safeguarding Workplan 2020-21
 - The Annual Review of Newport City Council Corporate Safeguarding Self-Assessment Audit
 - Future work, areas of stress/risk, and recommendations
 - Corporate Safeguarding Workplan 2022-23
 - A glossary of terms

4. Suggested Areas of Focus

Role of the Committee

The role of the Committee in considering the report is to:

- Establish whether associated key priorities and themes are appropriately addressed within the Action Plan (2022/2023) and planned actions are geared to meet the objectives within the timescale concerned.
- Determine whether there are any perceived areas of practice where objectives are not effectively addressed or met (both Corporate or within specific work plans of the Safeguarding Board)
- Consider whether an adequate monitoring and performance management framework and measures are in place to ensure an appropriate level of management on an ongoing basis and to consider possible arrangements for the Committee to implement.
- Work towards a parity of approach with corporate safeguarding colleagues across the region to implement joint Wales Audit Office recommendations and Welsh Government Corporate Safeguarding guidance to enable bench marking.
- Consider the level of planning and future provision of suitable training through a range of opportunities for Members in their roles as Councillors and Members of Scrutiny Committees.

4.2 Suggested Lines of Enquiry

- What are the main challenges that we face as an authority in Safeguarding and what are we doing to combat them?
- Has training data improved since the previous reporting cycle?
- What work has been completed to encourage training to be completed?

4.3 Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

5 Ways of Working	Types of Questions to consider:
<p>Long-term The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.</p>	<p>Can the Officers provide actions to any of the Amber and Red</p> <p>Are there any long term trends developing that could affect how this plan is implemented to how the actions are prioritised?</p>
<p>Prevention Prevent problems occurring or getting worse.</p>	<p>How are you ensuring that the needs of the service users monitored and are taken into account when developing the long term strategy?</p>
<p>Integration Considering how public bodies' wellbeing objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.</p>	<p>How does the Council's implementation of the plan impact upon the services of other public bodies and their objectives?</p>

<p>Collaboration Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the organisation itself).</p>	<p>How are you using the knowledge / information / good practice of others to inform / influence the Council's work?</p>
<p>Involvement The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.</p>	<p>How as a Council are we ensuring we are consistently seeking the views of those who are impacted through the implementation of the plan?</p> <p>While developing a long term strategy, how are you ensuring the diverse communities are involved in your decision making?</p>

Section B – Supporting Information

5 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

Well-being Objective	1 – Economy, Education and Skills	2 – Newport's Environment and Infrastructure	3 – Preventative and Equitable Community and Social Care	4 – An Inclusive, Fair and Sustainable Council
Aims:	Newport is a thriving and growing city that offers excellent education and aspires to provide opportunities for all.	A city that seeks to protect and enhance our environment whilst reducing our carbon footprint and preparing for a sustainable and digital future.	Newport is a supportive city where communities and care are at the heart of what we do.	Newport City Council is an inclusive organisation that places social value, fairness and sustainability at its core.

7. Background Papers

Include all additional documents that are referenced in the report, and those that you have used as background reading. Hyperlink to online versions of them if available.

- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Corporate Plan 2022-27](#)
- [Social Services and Wellbeing \(Wales\) Act 2014](#)
- [Children \(Wales\) Act 2020](#)
- [Previous Consideration of the Annual Safeguarding Report by Scrutiny](#)
- [Previous Consideration of the Annual Safeguarding Report by Cabinet](#)

Report Completed: May 2023