

**JOINT EDUCATION & YOUTH AND SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday, 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2018
<b>Report Subject</b>	Safeguarding of Children and Child Protection
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Education & Youth; and Cabinet Member for Social Services
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Education & Youth); and Chief Officer (Social Services)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

To provide members with information in relation to the Children's Safeguarding provision and Child Protection process within the county boundaries.

In line with the Council's strategy for developing a systematic Performance Management Framework, Education & Youth and Social Services routinely collate safeguarding activity for all aspects of safeguarding. This report is to inform Members of key statistical and performance related information about children at risk for whom the Authority has significant safeguarding responsibilities.

This report is also to highlight the partnership working between Education & Youth and Social Services portfolios and how this links in with the work of the Corporate Safeguarding Panel., and all portfolios of the council.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1	That Members accept this report as relevant information in relation to the Safeguarding of Children and Child Protections for the period 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2017 to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2018.
2	That Members take due regard to the partnership working taking place across portfolio areas to protect children and young people from harm.

## **REPORT DETAILS**

<b>1.00</b>	<b>EXPLAINING THE SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN AND CHILD PROTECTION</b>
1.01	<b>Background</b>
1.02	<p>The Flintshire Children’s Safeguarding Team are part of the Social Services Safeguarding Unit which comprise of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Child Protection</li><li>• Adult Protection</li><li>• Adults at Risk</li><li>• Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS)</li><li>• Looked After Children</li></ul>
1.03	<p>The Unit is based in Flint and is part of the Social Services portfolio with the Safeguarding Unit Manager reporting directly to the Senior Manager Safeguarding and Commissioning. The Unit has very close working relationships with the Education and Youth portfolio as with other key partner agencies, both locally and regionally.</p>
1.04	<b><u>Children’s Safeguarding</u></b>
1.05	<b>Child Protection Register</b>
1.06	<p>The purpose of the Child Protection Register (CPR) is to keep a confidential list of all children in the local area who have been identified as being at risk of significant harm. The register:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Allows authorised individuals in social work, education, health, police and other partner agencies to check if a child they are working with is known to be at risk</li><li>• Allows Children’s Safeguarding Managers to ensure that the child protection plans are formally reviewed in accordance with the All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008</li></ul>
1.07	<b>Numbers on the Register</b>
1.08	<p>The numbers on the register naturally fluctuate as either cases have progressed and the risk reduced and the child therefore removed from the register, or the risk has increased and the child has been taken into care. The Safeguarding Unit have no control over the number of referrals coming through First Contact nor do they have any influence over cases that are brought to conference.</p> <p>There has been a steady increase in line with national fluctuations of the numbers on the Child Protection Register. However we are now showing a downward trend as cases move towards care and support plans on a voluntary basis, closed completely due to a reduction in risk or at the other end of the risk spectrum, move into looked after children processes.</p> <p>Current figures for the end of April 2018 are <b>148</b> Flintshire Children on the register. There are 18 temporary registrations making a total of <b>166</b> children on the register at the present time.</p>

1.09	<b>Categories of Risk</b>
1.10	<p>The current breakdown of 166 children shows the highest categories for physical and emotional abuse, or emotional abuse alone. Such categories are usually linked to the increase in reported incidents of Domestic Abuse. The next highest category is Neglect. Our lowest number is risk of Sexual Harm showing 7 at the present time with another 12 combined with either Emotional Abuse or Neglect.</p> <p>The majority of cases in Flintshire were previously neglect, while emotional abuse is now more prevalent. However, emotional abuse is considered to be implicit in all types of abuse, and therefore the emotional abuse category will only be used where there is no other abuse indicated. There are currently 63 children registered for emotional abuse only.</p>
1.11	<b>Length of Time on the Register</b>
1.12	<p>Children on the register are reviewed in line with the All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008 – at 3 months and then every 6 months. Children on the Register reaching their third review are automatically reviewed under the Court and Public Law Outline and are subject to a legal advice meeting to identify whether cases need to move into proceedings. The Children’s Safeguarding Managers undertake a regular reviews of cases that have been on the child protection register for twelve months or more, and report the findings to Senior Managers. This process provides an additional layer of oversight to ensure children are not on the register longer than necessary. On 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 there were 15 Flintshire families who had been on the register for over 12 months.</p>
1.13	<b><u>Education &amp; Youth and Social Services Priorities for the Safeguarding of Children</u></b>
1.14	<b>Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)</b>
1.15	<p>CSE remains a Corporate priority with Corporate agreement to continue funding Flintshire’s Victim Contact team for a further two years to support the victims of CSE.</p> <p>Flintshire is a member of the Regional CSE Board where a Service Manager from Social Services provides progress reports on the work completed locally in relation to CSE. This includes links to the work of Project 84 which has been established by Barnardo’s. This Project provides longer term therapeutic support through a specialist service providing trauma recovery services, interfacing with the Victim Contact Team.</p>
1.15	<p>A case of special interest audit was undertaken in 2017 under the theme of child sexual exploitation. This involved an in-depth multiagency audit where agencies reviewed a case to identify good practice and areas for improvement. For Social Services the case highlighted the need to improve the chronology for the case. This finding was considered in the context of the Jay Report (2014) on child sexual exploitation in Rotherham. The next phase will be to audit a wider range of cases relate to looked after children, and children with care and support plans, to assure ourselves of practice compliance. This work will form part of our planned audit programme for 2018/19.</p>
1.16	<p>The North Wales Police CSE videos have been shared with all Senior Managers in Education &amp; Youth and Social Services as well as other</p>

	portfolios across the Council.
1.17	A CSE Awareness Event was arranged for 16 March 2018 at Coleg Cambria in Deeside. The Event provided information and advice on the broad range of statutory and 3 <sup>rd</sup> sector support and service provision in relation to CSE. The event was open to the Whole Community including Young People, Parents/Carers & Professionals and was well attended.
1.18	In schools, two training sessions have been held to date delivered by the Lucy Faithful Foundation. Staff attending are provided with key information to be delivered back in the school setting, including a link to the North Wales Police CSE videos which will be continued to be promoted on an ongoing basis with a view that all school staff will have seen the videos before the end of the academic year.
1.19	The same information from the Lucy Faithful Foundation training is shared with Personal and Social Education (PSE) coordinators via the county PSE forum which meets termly. PSE Coordinators were also provided with model lesson plans for CSE delivery and appropriate training: Year 9 - 'Exploited' which was adapted from Adapted from CEOP 'Exploited'. Year 10/11 - 'What's Happening Frankie?' Adapted from Barnardo's 'Hidden' Project.
1.20	Responding to Child Sexual Exploitation continues to be a high priority for Flintshire Youth Justice Service. Flintshire has a specific target in its Youth Justice Plan to explore assessment and intervention pathways for young people who are at risk of criminal exploitation. In 2015-16 the Youth Justice Service secured training for two practitioners on a regional 'Train the Trainers Course' which has allowed them to disseminate the training and learning to the wider staff team. Flintshire Youth Justice Service is attempting to arrange team training for Trafficked young people, Modern Day Slavery Act and the role of the Independent Child Trafficking Advocate.
1.21	Flintshire Youth Justice Service continues to work closely with Social Services for Children regarding our clients who are Looked After. Joint case file audits between Youth Justice Service and Social Services for Children are being undertaken.
1.22	The updated Safeguarding and Child Protection model policy was provided to all schools in Autumn 2017 which reflects national guidance from Keeping Learners Safe and All Wales Child Protection Procedures. All partners were consulted and gave valuable input. The policy is on Flintshire School Improvement Hwb, within a designated safeguarding area which contains up to date guidance, procedures and templates.
1.23	The training offer for schools in relation to safeguarding has been reviewed and a course for Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) (full day) piloted in summer 2017 and has since been introduced across all schools during 2017/18. The way in which the Local Authority monitors schools safeguarding has also been reviewed and data will be gathered centrally in a new format at the end of each academic year. Monitoring for staff training undertaken is

	also being reviewed in Education & Youth.
1.24	<p>All Flintshire secondary schools are participating in a pilot for year 7 and 8 pupils with eAware which is funded by the healthy schools scheme and inclusion service. The pilot involves pupils undertaking an online survey to establish their understanding in relation to key aspects of safeguarding including sexting, gaming etc. and thereafter the school utilising resources and lesson plans as an intervention, ahead of undertaking another survey at the end of term to ascertain if the education has raised awareness and increased understanding of the risks, impacted on their decision making.</p> <p><a href="https://www.eaware.co.uk/">https://www.eaware.co.uk/</a></p> <p>With an evidence base office we will be in a position to advise schools in terms of their PSE planning and content and target resources, training appropriately.</p>
1.25	Further information regarding the key priorities for the development of the workforce in both Children's Services and Education & Youth portfolio are detailed in Appendix 1, along with information regarding the training courses provided to meet those needs.
1.26	Pupils from School Councils have been involved in the development of two lesson plans for prevent – one for Key Stage 3 pupils and one for Key Stage 4. These have also received a positive response from schools and are age appropriate.
1.27	<b><u>Corporate Safeguarding</u></b>
1.28	The Corporate Safeguarding Panel was established in December 2015 in response to a Wales Audit Office (WAO) report 'Review of Corporate Safeguarding Arrangements in Welsh Councils' (July 2015).
1.29	The Corporate Safeguarding Panel was set up to ensure the Council provides a framework for all council services to safeguard and protect vulnerable adults and children. Each portfolio has a lead named Officer for Safeguarding in their area.
1.30	Safeguarding is included as a priority under 'Supportive Council' in the Council Plan 2018 - 2023. The Panel is well attended and supported by two Chief Officers and elected members. Each portfolio has an identified safeguarding lead.
1.31	A Corporate Safeguarding Policy has been produced setting out the role of the Panel, defining safeguarding and setting a clear direction that makes safeguarding everyone's responsibility. A presentation on Safeguarding and the work the Panel was delivered through the Change Exchange, a forum for all tier 3 managers within the organisation.
1.32	Safeguarding awareness sessions have also been run for Elected Members for the Health and Social Services Overview Scrutiny and the Scrutiny Committee for Education and Youth. A further session is planned for Licensing Committee.
1.33	The Corporate Safeguarding Panel has recently published the first in a series of News bulletins designed to keep all Flintshire County Council employees and elected member up to date with safeguarding news. The

	links can be found below. <a href="http://fcc_systems_01/FCC_News/Attachment/Display/395">http://fcc_systems_01/FCC_News/Attachment/Display/395</a> <a href="http://fcc_systems_01/FCC_News/Attachment/Display/394">http://fcc_systems_01/FCC_News/Attachment/Display/394</a>
1.34	Flintshire Internal Audit have recently completed an audit of Corporate Safeguarding which indicated a numbers of areas considered to be managed well and suggesting some areas for further improvement. This report is shaping the future work programme of the panel.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	There are no financial implications arising from this report.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	N/A

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	N/A

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	<b>Appendix 1</b> - Key priorities around safeguarding practice for workforce and training across Children’s Services and Education & Youth.

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	None.  <b>Contact Officer:</b> Jane Davies – Senior Manager Safeguarding and Commissioning <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 702503 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:jane.m.davies@flintshire.gov.uk">jane.m.davies@flintshire.gov.uk</a>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
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7.01

**(1) All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008:** All Wales Child Protection Procedures, implemented on April 1st 2008, help safeguard children and promote their welfare. The All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008 replace earlier jurisdiction. The procedures combine the shared knowledge and experiences of Wales' 22 Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) and reflect the changes required as a result of high-profile child protection reports like the Laming Report. They address a wide range of safeguarding issues, including new mediums in which abuse can occur, such as the internet, and incorporate learning from research and practice from other parts of the world.

**(2) Corporate Parenting:** The Council has a duty to act as a good parent to children and young people in its care and those young people in the process of leaving care. The Council wants these children to have the best possible outcomes. Clear strategic and political leadership is crucial in ensuring that Looked After Children and the Corporate Parenting agenda is given the appropriate profile and priority.

**(3) Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE):** is a type of sexual abuse. Children in exploitative situations and relationships receive something such as gifts, money or affection as a result of performing sexual activities or others performing sexual activities on them.