

CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 17 th November 2020
Report Subject	Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report 2019/20
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Social Services
Report Author	Chief Officer (Social Services)
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Safeguarding is a corporate priority and a discipline we expect all portfolios to observe and support as good corporate practice. Whilst Social Services is the lead Service within the Council for dealing with enquiries regarding allegations / concerns that children and adults may be suffering significant harm, everyone, whatever their role, has a responsibility to safeguard the well-being of children, young people and adults.

The purpose of this report is to set out the work being undertaken to ensure that we meet our safeguarding responsibilities and present the Annual Corporate Safeguarding report for approval. The Corporate Safeguarding Annual Report 2019/20 is attached as Appendix 1.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Cabinet is assured that work is being undertaken to improve corporate arrangements for safeguarding children and adults.
2	Cabinet approve the Corporate Safeguarding Annual Report 2019/20 prior to publication.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING ANNUAL REPORT
1.01	Safeguarding is the responsibility of all our services, not just those that work directly with children and vulnerable people. Our responsibilities for safeguarding are set out in legislation including the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. This Act created a duty on all local authority employees, elected members and relevant partners to report any actual or suspected incidents of abuse or harm.
1.02	In 2015, the Wales Audit Office (WAO) examined the corporate assurance arrangements within councils and the extent to which they are operating, effective management and assurance processes and controls for safeguarding children. The WAO found that many of the corporate safeguarding responsibilities within local authorities across Wales were underdeveloped and not well understood.
1.03	A Corporate Safeguarding Panel was established in December 2015 to ensure that we have robust arrangements for protecting children, young people and adults. The Panel ensures that the Council fulfils its safeguarding duties corporately and in partnership with other statutory agencies. It is jointly chaired by the Chief Officer, (Social Services) and Chief Officer (Education and Youth) and comprises designated Safeguarding Leads from every Portfolio. The Cabinet Member, Social Services and Cabinet Member, Corporate Management are also members of this Panel.
1.04	<p>The Corporate Safeguarding Annual Report 2019/20 sets out progress that has been made to ensure there are robust corporate safeguarding arrangements in place. The report identifies action that has been undertaken to date including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• provision of drama style safeguarding training to the Early Years' sector;• incorporating safeguarding clauses within the licensing requirements for taxi drivers;• providing safeguarding training to over 400 taxi drivers to ensure they recognise the signs of potential abuse and know how to make a report;• working with North Wales Police on Operation Encompass, an initiative to support children and young people who are subject to or witness police attended domestic abuse incidents. This involves the police contacting the relevant school when there has been a domestic abuse incident in a child/young person's home to ensure the school provides appropriate support and safeguards the child /young person against the impact of domestic abuse.• Theatr Clwyd delivered Justice in a Day workshops. This interactive performance involved a workshop with a team of professional actors and a participatory visit to Mold Magistrates'

	<p>Court where an actual Magistrate took part. The content reflected the times and lives of young people today; tackling issues relating to County Lines and its consequences. 151 pupils from eight secondary schools participated.</p>
1.05	<p>The report also identifies good news stories including an example of how joint working with our Housing services, our Adult Safeguarding Team and a third sector organisation, safeguarded a female victim of modern slavery. Through the Housing Team identifying the victim and reporting their concerns, the woman was provided with appropriate support and accommodated into a refuge.</p>
1.06	<p>Estyn has praised the Corporate Safeguarding Panel in their inspection report of Flintshire Local Education Authority during 2019:</p> <p>The cross-service Safeguarding Group is beginning to influence positively the work of the Flintshire pioneer schools who are developing the health and wellbeing aspect of the new curriculum. For example, they have provided schools with useful resources to support them in identifying radicalisation, potential child sexual exploitation and unhealthy relationships. In addition, they have provided helpful materials to support National Safeguarding Week, such as model lessons on county lines.</p>
1.07	<p>The key actions to be completed during 2020/21 by the Corporate Safeguarding Panel are set out in the annual report and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to participate in national Safeguarding Week 2020 to ensure that we raise awareness of safeguarding issues to our workforce and members of the public. • Raise awareness of the new Wales Safeguarding Procedures. • Encourage employees to complete the Welsh Government's e-learning module "Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Against Women" to achieve 100% completion rate by March 2021. • Continue to raise awareness of Modern Slavery ensuring employees recognise the signs and know how to make a referral. • Develop and implement and regularly review a new corporate safeguarding action plan to ensure we are meeting the recommendations of the Wales Audit Office recommendations for corporate safeguarding. • Support the shared, high profile priorities of the Regional Safeguarding Children's Board and Regional Safeguarding Adults' Board: Exploitation and Domestic Abuse and develop actions to raise awareness of these issues. • Provide strategic oversight of the work the Council undertakes in supporting disabled children and how the service works in partnership with the wider Social Services Portfolio and colleagues in Education and Youth Portfolio, to safeguarding these individuals
1.08	<p>A "Tackling Modern Slavery" e-learning module and a Safeguarding e-learning module are now available on Flintshire Academi Learning Pool. All employees are encouraged to complete these modules to improve their awareness.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	<p>There are financial implications for rolling out a training programme to ensure our employees have the skills and knowledge to identify potential safeguarding issues and know how to make a report.</p> <p>All portfolios have made a financial contribution to a corporate budget for safeguarding training.</p>

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT												
3.01	<p>An integrated impact assessment is not required for this report. This report provides an overview of the activities of the Corporate Safeguarding Panel during 2019/20.</p> <p>Risks associated with safeguarding are managed through the Risk Register.</p>												
3.02	<p>Under the five ways of working principles of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015, this report will have the following impact:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Ways of Working</th> <th>Impact</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Long-term</td> <td>Positive impact through increasing our employees, residents and contractors awareness of safeguarding issues and to ensure they understand that safeguarding is “everyone’s responsibility”.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prevention</td> <td>Positive impact through promoting awareness of safeguarding issues and encouraging everyone to report their concerns at an early stage to protect children and vulnerable adults.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Integration</td> <td>No change</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Collaboration</td> <td>Positive impact through Portfolios working together as the Corporate Safeguarding Panel to protect children and adults</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Involvement</td> <td>No change</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Ways of Working	Impact	Long-term	Positive impact through increasing our employees, residents and contractors awareness of safeguarding issues and to ensure they understand that safeguarding is “everyone’s responsibility”.	Prevention	Positive impact through promoting awareness of safeguarding issues and encouraging everyone to report their concerns at an early stage to protect children and vulnerable adults.	Integration	No change	Collaboration	Positive impact through Portfolios working together as the Corporate Safeguarding Panel to protect children and adults	Involvement	No change
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3.03	<p>Against the seven well-being goals of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015, this activities of the Corporate Safeguarding Panel identified in this report have the following impact:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Well-being Goal</th> <th>Impact</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Prosperous Wales</td> <td>No change</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Resilient Wales</td> <td>No change</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Well-being Goal	Impact	Prosperous Wales	No change	Resilient Wales	No change						
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	Healthier Wales	Positive impact through protecting people from harm improving both their mental and physical health.
	More equal Wales	Positive impact through supporting vulnerable people to live safely and fulfil their potential
	Cohesive Wales	Positive impact through contributing to creating a safe environment in which the signs of abuse are recognised and reported
	Vibrant Wales	No change
	Globally responsible Wales	No change

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
4.01	The Corporate Safeguarding Panel has contributed to the content of the annual report.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Corporate Safeguarding Annual Report 2019/20.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Review of Corporate Safeguarding Arrangements in Welsh Councils - Wales Audit Office 2015</p> <p>Contact Officer: Fiona Mocko Strategic Policy Advisor Telephone: 702122 E-mail: fiona.mocko@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
	<p>County Lines: refers to the transportation of illegal drugs from one area to another, often across police and local authority boundaries, usually by children or vulnerable people who are coerced into it by gangs. The 'County Line' is the mobile phone line used to take the orders of drugs.</p> <p>Modern Slavery: exploitation of other people for personal or commercial gain. It can include forced labour, sexual exploitation, human trafficking and removal of organs.</p> <p>Safeguarding: protecting children and adults from abuse or neglect and educating those around them to recognise the signs and dangers.</p>