

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

Date of Meeting	Thursday 30 th June 2022
Report Subject	Safeguarding in Education
Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Report Author	Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To provide an update on the discharge of statutory safeguarding duties in schools and the Education portfolio.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That members note the content of the safeguarding in education report and provide their feedback to officers on the strategies used by the Portfolio to effectively discharge its duties.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE SAFEGUARDING IN EDUCATION REPORT
1.01	<p>Safeguarding reporting arrangements and lines of accountability within the Portfolio</p> <p>The Education and Youth Portfolio has continued to embed its Safeguarding Panel to maintain a strategic overview of the Portfolio's responsibilities in relation to safeguarding.</p>

	<p>The panel meets each half term, chaired by the Chief Education Officer. It includes manager representatives from School Improvement, Inclusion and Progression, Youth Justice and Children’s Services.</p> <p>Key areas of focus for the panel this year have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response to the Everyone’s Invited website and the subsequent review by Estyn <i>We don’t tell our teachers - Experiences of peer-on-peer sexual harassment among secondary school pupils in Wales</i> • Contribution to the national Safeguarding in Education Group working group on reviewing the Managing Allegations against Professionals guidance for schools • Training and support for schools in managing and preventing harmful sexual behaviours • Training and support for Designated Safeguarding Persons in schools • National Safeguarding Week - 5th – 19th November 2021 “Together we can keep people safe” • Wales Cod Ymarfer Diogelu /Code of Safeguarding Practice
1.02	<p>Monitoring of Compliance and Review</p> <p>The updated ‘Keeping Learners Safe’ guidance from Welsh Government contains a safeguarding audit tool to support schools to review their safeguarding arrangements. The audit tool is intended for schools to identify strengths and weaknesses in their safeguarding arrangements and to ensure they are exercising their legal safeguarding obligations in line with the ‘Keeping Learners Safe’ statutory guidance.</p> <p>As a local authority we have requested all schools complete the audit tool and submit this for review. The review of all submissions is currently taking place with key themes to be prioritised over the next academic year and individual feedback / support as required.</p> <p>We have also requested the Safeguarding Children Annual Report which schools complete for monitoring and includes review of DBS checks, staff training and policies.</p>
1.03	<p>Professional Development</p> <p>During the academic year (2020-2021) 262 staff accessed Levels 2 and 3 safeguarding training from 15 courses. When including safeguarding in the curriculum (specifically the Getting on Together GOT training) this increases by 160, totalling 422 staff from 17 courses.</p> <p>During this year (2021 -2022) 299 staff have accessed Levels 2 and 3 safeguarding training from 17 courses. When including Ask and Act training, Governor training, Prevent and Getting on Together this increases by 231, totalling 530 staff from 30 courses. This year we also arranged an online meet and greet with Social Services colleagues for safeguarding persons in schools to have an opportunity to learn more about key staff and their roles.</p>

	<p>Combined over the last two years 952 staff have accessed training which has been adapted for online delivery. For the level 2 and 3 courses they do not exceed 3 hours – which includes a break and opportunities to participate in various discussions through the use of break out rooms. The number of participants per course is limited to 20 to ensure the quality of the delivery and maximise opportunities for engagement.</p> <p>Schools are provided with up to date materials to enable the delivery of level 1 basic awareness training by the Designated Safeguarding Person in each school (providing they have been trained at level 3) to deliver to the whole school staff. The Safeguarding training for staff in Flintshire schools has been updated to reflect the new Wales Safeguarding Procedures and the revised ‘Keeping Learners Safe’ guidance.</p> <p>In terms of ensuring the content of all training has a Flintshire perspective; Flintshire policies and procedures are referenced as a matter of course, include accurate and up to date data from Children’s Services to provide local context, and address any key learning from the North Wales Safeguarding Children’s Board reviews.</p>
1.04	<p>Estyn</p> <p>In December 2021 Estyn published a report following a review of Peer on Peer sexual harassment in secondary schools in Wales. Sexual harassment occurs when a person engages in unwanted conduct of a sexual nature that has the purpose or effect of: violating someone’s dignity; or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for them.</p> <p>Estyn included a number of recommendations to be considered by schools, local authorities and Welsh Government. In response to this as a Council we have developed an action plan and we are prioritising this area of work which includes Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) in the new Curriculum for Wales.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	Safeguarding is a core responsibility of everybody who works for the Council. Delivering the commitments contained within this report are within existing human and financial resources.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	<p>There are no specific risks arising from this report and subsequent actions. The Education Portfolio has a detailed risk assessment which outlines key risks related to the delivery of education services and method statements which describe how these risks are managed. These are regularly reported to the Education, Youth and Culture Overview Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>There will continue to be ongoing monitoring of the portfolio and schools in discharging of statutory safeguarding duties.</p>

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	None required for this report.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	There are no supporting documents for this report.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Keeping Learners Safe (2021) Audit Tool</p> <p>Cymraeg: https://llyw.cymru/cadw-dysgwyr-yn-ddiogel English: https://gov.wales/keeping-learners-safe</p>
6.02	<p>Estyn 'We don't tell our teachers' Experiences of peer on peer sexual harassment among secondary school pupils in Wales (Dec 2021)</p> <p>Cymraeg: https://www.estyn.llyw.cymru/system/files/2021-12/Profiadau%20o%20aflonyddu%20rhywiol%20rhwng%20cyfoedion%20ymhlith%20disgyblion%20ysgolion%20uwchradd%20yng%20Nghymru%20-%20Adnoddau%20atodol.pdf</p> <p>English: https://www.estyn.gov.wales/system/files/2021-12/Experiences%20of%20peer-on-peer%20sexual%20harassment%20among%20secondary%20school%20pupils%20in%20Wales%20-%20Supporting%20resources.pdf</p>

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	<p>Contact Officer: Vicky Barlow, Senior Manager for School Improvement Telephone: 01352 704019 E-mail: vicky.barlow@flintshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Contact Officer: Claire Sinnott, Learning Advisor Telephone: 01352 704054 E-mail: claire.h.sinnott@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	Safeguarding - safeguarding means preventing and protecting children and adults at risk from abuse or neglect and educating those around them to recognise the signs and dangers.