

Pecyn Dogfennau Cyhoeddus



The following reports are Information Items for the Social Services Scrutiny Committee.

- 1 Adroddiadau Diogelu Corfforaethol Blynyddol 2022-2023
- 2 Grantiau Gofal Cymdeithasol 2023/24



SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – INFORMATION ITEM

SUBJECT: ANNUAL CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING REPORTS 2022 - 2023

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR – SOCIAL SERVICES AND HOUSING

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To present Scrutiny Committee with the 2022-23 Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report, Forward Work Programme and Safeguarding Key Activity Data for information.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 The Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report, attached at Appendix 1, offers valuable assurance in relation to the Council's corporate safeguarding arrangements and provides updates on the progress made in implementing the Forward Work Programme, attached at Appendix 2. For the first time, key safeguarding activity data is also reported this year and is attached at Appendix 3 for information.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Scrutiny Committee are requested to note the content of the Annual Reports and the progress made in implementing the Forward Work Programme.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 To ensure Scrutiny Committee is fully aware of the Council's arrangements for corporate safeguarding and is satisfied that these arrangements are effective.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 This is the eighth Annual Report and it provides a strategic overview of the progress made in implementing the Forward Work Programme during 2022-2023.

5.2 The Annual Reports were presented to the Corporate Safeguarding Board on 22nd May 2023 where they were ratified and approval was given for them to progress to Social Services Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet for information purposes.

5.3 The Corporate Safeguarding Board provides appropriate governance arrangements to oversee and support the implementation of the actions included in the Forward Work

Programme.

5.4 The Annual Report reviews the actions that were rated as Red or Amber in the Forward Work Programme and provides updates in relation to the ongoing actions in place to address these ratings. In turn, the Annual Report identifies the priorities for the Board going forward into 2023-2024 and these will now be added to the Forward Work Programme.

5.5 The Key Safeguarding Activity Data Report is a new addition to the reporting arrangements this year. Whilst the data has previously been presented to the Corporate Safeguarding Board, Corporate Management Team agreed that it would be beneficial to report it to Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet. The data covers general referral rates to Social Services including those progressing through adult and children's safeguarding processes, schools safeguarding audits and HR safer recruitment.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

6.1 There are no assumptions made or presumed in this report.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 This report is for information purposes only, so the Council's full Integrated Impact Assessment process does not need to be applied.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no funding implications arising from this report.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no personnel or HR implications arising from this report.

10. CONSULTATIONS

10.1 The report is for information purposes and reflects the views of consultees.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Social Services & Well Being (Wales) Act 2014

Author: Gareth Jenkins, Head of Children's Services
jenkig2@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Dave Street, Deputy Chief Executive
street@caerphilly.gov.uk
Councillor Elaine Forehead, Cabinet Member for Social Services and Chair of the Corporate Safeguarding Board
forehe@caerphilly.gov.uk
CCBC Corporate Management Team
CCBC Corporate Safeguarding Board
Social Services Senior Management Team
Children's Services Divisional Management Team

Attachments:

Appendices:

1. Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report 2022-23
2. Corporate Safeguarding Board Forward Work Programme 2022-23
3. Safeguarding Key Activity Data Report for 2022-23



CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING BOARD – 22ND MAY 2023

SUBJECT: ANNUAL CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING REPORT 2022/23

REPORT BY: SERVICE MANAGER FOR SAFEGUARDING

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Corporate Safeguarding Board with an update on progress made during the 2022/23 financial year.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Board was established in February 2015 following a review by Audit Wales, formally the Welsh Audit Office (WAO) of Caerphilly County Borough Council's (the Council) assurance and accountability arrangements for ensuring that safeguarding policies and procedures were in place and being adhered to. On 17th November 2015, the Corporate Safeguarding Policy was ratified at full Council.
- 2.2 Audit Wales subsequently undertook a follow-up review of arrangements in 2019 and identified a number of areas for improvement and consideration. A comprehensive Action Plan was developed in response which was monitored and signed off by the Board. Since that time a Forward Work Programme was developed and reviewed via the Board regarding the progress of work under the auspice of corporate safeguarding.
- 2.3 This is the 8th Annual Report which provides an overview of the progression of the Forward Work Programme during 2022/2023 and safeguarding practices across the Council.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Board is requested to:
- note the content of the Annual Report including the recommendations
 - note the progress made regarding the Forward Work Programme
 - approve the Report being presented to Corporate Management Team, Social Services Scrutiny Committee and Audit Committee in due course

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure the Board is fully aware of the Council's arrangements for corporate safeguarding and is satisfied that these arrangements are effective.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 During 2022/23, safeguarding children and adults has continued to be the main objective in Social Services. As reported last year, management and operational structures have remained consistent in both Children and Adult Services, this has ensured the continued consistency of safeguarding practices and the availability of support regarding safeguarding on a corporate level.

5.2 The 2021/22 Annual Report was agreed by Board on the 6th of June 2022, where the following recommendations were agreed to continue this work, via the Forward Work Programme, into 2022/23:

- Implement the National Safeguarding Training Framework in November 2022 and, in response, review the training currently under the Corporate Safeguarding Training Framework
- Make the Group 'A' eLearning Module available on the Learning@Wales website under the Caerphilly page, alongside VAWDASV Ask and Act Group 1 eLearning Module and Caerphilly's Tier 1 Corporate Safeguarding Video (Welsh and English)
- Review of Internal Audit's findings, when available
- Incorporate the previous AMBER issues into the Forward Work Programme
- Self-assessments to be reviewed and updated annually by DSO's
- The Safeguarding Media Campaign to be implemented
- Deliver Tier 1 Safeguarding Training to CMT and Elected Members following the 2022 Elections
- Continue to monitor the progress of the Learning Management System (LMS) Project
- Progress work on developing a consistent approach to corporate safeguarding practices across Gwent, including development of a comparator key data set and a regional self-assessment tool
- Continue to invite speakers to attend the Designated Safeguarding Officers (DSO) Development Group regarding relevant safeguarding topics
- Reduce Board meetings from quarterly to twice per year (6 monthly) with the DSO Development Group continuing to meet quarterly.

Overall progress to date

5.4 The DSO Development Group has continued via the virtual platform (MS Teams) and DSO's report via this group positive support and assistance regarding safeguarding matters received from the Adult Safeguarding Team Manager, Child Protection Coordinator and Safeguarding Service Manager. Attendance has continued to be positive. The knowledge base of the DSO's has continued to be supported via presentations and discussions on relevant safeguarding matters which will be an ongoing recommendation. The group has met virtually on the following dates:

- 11.07.2022
- 03.10.2022
- 16.01.2023

A meeting scheduled for the 15th May 2023 was postponed due to the Safeguarding Service Manager being absent from work for a period of time and the closeness of the date to the Board meeting scheduled for the 22nd May 2023.

- 5.5 As recommended and agreed in the last Annual Report, the Board has met twice a year, this was reduced from quarterly. This reduction in meetings has not had any impact on the progression of corporate safeguarding tasks and the Forward Work Programme is regularly reviewed in the DSO Development group to ensure progression of recommended actions. The Board met on 2nd June and 5th December 2022.
- 5.6 The recommendations for future work relating to corporate safeguarding have been captured in the Forward Work Programme. This was reviewed in preparation for Board and is attached as Appendix 1. The following points are noteworthy regarding the Red/Amber/Green (RAG) rating status:
- a. Recommendation 1: (RAG rated Amber) Relates to the delivery of safe recruitment training supported via HR. This work is progressing, and an eLearning Presentation has been developed which will be rolled out to all employees involved in the recruitment process during 2023/2024.
 - b. Recommendation 4: (RAG rated Amber). This relates to Corporate Safeguarding Training. A number of actions are highlighted as Green under this recommendation. However, the completion of safeguarding training for CMT and Elected members is Amber due to the numbers of said employees who have not completed the training as requested by the end of February 2023. Also Amber in this section is the Tier 1 videos for basic awareness being made available only to Caerphilly Employees, a solution is still being sought. Monitoring of training continues to be rated Amber and this will be discussed further in the report. The work related to the National Safeguarding Training Framework is rated as RED as the launch is not expected now until November 2023.
 - c. Recommendation 6: (RAG rated Amber). The final report from Internal Audit is still awaited. Comments from 3 service areas are required prior to the final report being completed.
 - d. Recommendation 7: (RAG rated Amber). This relates to the development of the Corporate Safeguarding Credit Card leaflet. This has been written and translated to Welsh, final printed version of both the English and Welsh version is required. This has been based on an example used in Leisure Services and will be made available to all staff during 2023/24.
 - e. Recommendation 8: (RAG rated Amber). The work relating to the LMS system has progressed and reference to the current position is highlighted further in the report.
 - f. Recommendation 10: (RAG rated Amber). The regional work regarding corporate safeguarding arrangements has made progress over the last year. A regional self assessment tool has been agreed, progress has also been made on a shared key data set. However, consideration of training remains rated Red as this is impacted by the National Safeguarding Training Framework. This work does not put the Council at any risk, this work will strengthen corporate safeguarding practices on a regional level.

- 5.7 As noted in last years report, the Corporate Safeguarding Training Framework was implemented in November 2019 however, training delivery was impacted by Covid 19. Over this past year, delivery of training has progressed and Tier 2 sessions have been delivered via service areas, supplemented by sessions delivered by the Adult Safeguarding Team Manager and Child Protection Coordinator. Tier 3 sessions for Children’s Safeguarding are now available through the Gwent Safeguarding Board and Tier 3 Advanced Adult Safeguarding has been delivered via the Adult Safeguarding Team. Tier 1 Basic Awareness has been available in several formats including a SWAY presentation, a written presentation and videos. Also available is Group A of the National Safeguarding Training Framework which is available via the Councils page on the learning@wales website. CMT and Elected members have been asked to complete this however, only 13 elected members have completed this to date, with several others making contact with the Workforce Development Team due to difficult accessing the eLearning. Having reviewed this eLearning package and the fact that it forms the basis of Group A in the National Safeguarding Training Framework, it would seem reasonable at this stage to recommend that all employees who require Tier 1 Basic Awareness training now be directed to complete Group A training. This will allow relevant officers to concentrate on ensuring that Tier 2 training is in line with Group B of the framework.
- 5.8 The recording and monitoring of safeguarding training and the delivery of training continue to be risks to the Council. Being unable to monitor and track safeguarding training consistently across all service areas is a concern. The current process of recording training in Itrent is very reliant on reporting by managers and those who deliver training. It is envisaged that further developments in Itrent may assist with the recording and monitoring of training. Collaboration will also take place with the Workforce Development Team regarding the National Safeguarding Training Framework in order to consider specific employee roles and how they fit into the framework to ensure the correct level of training is identified. This will be a large piece of work and will take time to embed, along with ensuring that all corporate training packages meet the standards outline din the National Framework.
- 5.9 As noted in 5.6 (e) above, the work regarding the LMS system has progressed to the conclusion of the Welsh Government funded BETA Phase. The LMS would enable the delivery of corporate safeguarding training to be monitored and provide employees with prompts when they need to undertake refresher training. This would give the Council much better assurance that employees are complaint with safeguarding training requirements. There is currently a working prototype from a provider called Thingi, the prototype is pre-set with the requirements of the Council and the other consortium LA’s. The finalisation of the procurement process on behalf of all Local Authorities in Wales is taking place and communication to all Authorities will be sent out seeking an update on their position to be part of this project. This procurement process is being run by Blaenau Gwent CBC in conjunction with their Legal team on behalf of all Local Authorities in Wales. It is important to note that any implementation times scales could be extensive. A partnership agreement between Carmarthenshire CC, BGCBC and CCBC has allowed the appointment of a systems implementation expert, initially from April to June 2023. Welsh Government will fund the majority of this cost.

- 5.10 From an Education perspective, safeguarding continues to be a priority and is fully recognised within their Service Improvement Plan. For the year 2022/2023, 42 schools received a Safeguarding audit, 40 schools were RAG rated Green, 1 Amber and 1 red. Actions were put in place immediately to respond to the Amber and Red Audit outcomes. Ensuring safeguarding training for all schools is a priority. To support safeguarding in education, a Safeguarding Officer was recruited to meet the needs and demands of safeguarding in education. All schools continue to receive safeguarding training on a 3 yearly basis which is monitored and supported via train the trainer model with Head Teachers, with 34 Head Teachers receiving training in this relevant year. LEA staff also receive the required level of safeguarding training (239) as do school Governors, around 149 governors have attended training via the Governor Network. The Safeguarding Lead in Education and the Safeguarding Service Manager meet on a monthly basis to discuss any required matters relating to safeguarding and there is regular liaison with the Child Protection Coordinator.
- 5.11 Self Assessments for 2022/2023 have been completed and submitted by all but 2 service areas. Internal Audit are currently reviewing the self assessment process and as stated, their final report is awaited. The self-assessments for 2022/2023 have been reviewed by the Safeguarding Service Manager with the following Red and Amber matters being identified that will need further work during 2023/2024:
- Ensuring all DSO's are fully aware of the Corporate Safeguarding Training requirements for the role of the DSO, this is an identified need where there is a change of DSO or cover arrangements within a service area.
 - Reinforcement of the Procurement Safeguarding Protocol for all newly commissioned providers, again an identified need for new DSO's or those undertaking cover arrangements
 - Monitoring and tracking of employees completion of safeguarding training has continued to be Amber rated for several service areas, along with resource availability to provide Tier 2 safeguarding training in specific service areas
 - Reinforcing the need for 3 year refresher training was highlighted by 1 service area and Rag rated RED.
 - Implementation of the National Safeguarding Training framework and the need to update the Corporate Safeguarding Training Framework so this is in line with the national framework
 - Ensuring that the corporate safeguarding responsibility is included in all Job Descriptions was also highlighted in some self-assessments, however this matter is being managed by HR when JD's are being reviewed and updated and has been discussed in the DSO Development Group
 - Safe Recruitment training continues to be highlighted as an Amber issue, however there is a plan via HR to roll out relevant training.
 - Implementation of Agile Working policy has also highlighted as an area for further consideration related to access to buildings.

Planned Future Work

- 5.13 The following recommendations are made for 2023/24:

- All new starters complete the Group A eLearning module available on the Caerphilly Page of the Learning@Wales digital platform
- HR induction process to be updated to reflect this for all new employees
- Update the Caerphilly Safeguarding Training Framework for all PC users to complete Group A as their Tier 1 basic awareness training. The Tier 1 safeguarding videos, SWAY presentation and written presentation for Basic awareness can still be available for non PC users as required
- Roll out the Corporate Safeguarding Credit Card leaflet for use by service areas – printing costs need to be approved.
- Safe Recruitment training plan to be developed so that this is made available to all those involved in the recruitment process
- Implement the Gwent regional self-assessment format for 2023/24 and begin discussions about comparison data being collected to report during the year
- On going liaison with the Workforce Development Team and links to Itrent to improve data collection for safeguarding training and consider job roles to specific levels of safeguarding training requirements
- Review the Corporate Safeguarding Training Framework in line with the National Safeguarding Training Framework after November 2023
- Continue to invite speakers to the DSO Development Group to increase knowledge of DSO's on matters relating to safeguarding
- Review the current work and decision making relating to the LMS
- Incorporate the amber/red rated issues from the self-assessments into the forward work programme as agreed by the DSO Development Group.

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 There are no assumptions made or presumed in this report.

7. **INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 This report is for information purposes only, so the Council's full Integrated Impact Assessment process does not need to be applied.

8. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 As noted in the previous Annual Reports, safeguarding awareness training has been provided within existing resources and this has continued to date.
- 8.2 The National Safeguarding Training Framework which is now due to be launched in November 2023, is likely to require consideration of who facilitates training for safeguarding leads and those roles within the safeguarding process. Such training may need to be commissioned. It is hoped that there will be further clarity around this including the development of national training packages by November 2023.
- 8.3 As noted in previous years report there are likely to be costs associated with the LMS system. This work has been progressing and is being worked in partnership with other Local Authorities. Final costs are yet to be known, the procurement process is being finalised.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no personnel or HR implications arising from this report.

10. CONSULTATIONS

10.1 The report is for information purposes and reflects the views of consultees.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Social Services & Well Being (Wales) Act 2014

Author: Nicola Barrett, Service Manager – Children’s Services

Consultees: Gareth Jenkins, Head of Children’s Services
Cllr Elaine Forehead, Cabinet Member for Social Services and Chair of the
Corporate Safeguarding Board
The Corporate Safeguarding Board
The DSO Development Group

Appendix 1: Forward Work Programme

**CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING BOARD
FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23- May 2023**

APPENDIX 2

	Recommendation	Action	Who	Progress / Completion	RAG Status
1	Delivery of training on the safe recruitment policy to employees involved in recruitment processes	Training for all managers involved in the recruitment process to ensure Safe Recruitment is embedded in practice	HR/ DSO for HR	Discussion with HR HoS has highlighted that internal training would be rolled out March/April time for those staff involved in the recruitment process. The eLearning module has now been developed and discussions need to be held regarding a roll out programme	AMBER
2	Ensuring corporate safeguarding and the duty to report is considered in all Job Descriptions	HR to ensure that this is included in any reviews, updates, or development of new Job Descriptions	HR/DSO in HR	This is already included in many Job Descriptions and will be included in the development of all new JD's and when existing JD's are updated and/or reviewed. This will also be reflected in the Safe Recruitment Training when rolled out.	GREEN On going
3	Corporate Safeguarding Board: Frequency of Meetings	Board meetings to be reduced to twice per year.	Nicola Barrett/Gareth Jenkins	Future Board dates 22.5.2023 and 27.11.2023. Dates for 2024 will be agreed in line with reporting to CMT, PDM and Scrutiny	GREEN Would propose deleting
4	Corporate Safeguarding Training	Corporate Safeguarding Framework to be updated in line with revisions to available training	Nicola Barrett	Framework has been updated and is under the safeguarding tab on the intranet, the codes have been updated in Itrent to reflect the updated framework.	GREEN

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FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23- May 2023**

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	Recommendation	Action	Who	Progress / Completion	RAG Status
		DSO's to complete safeguarding training data collection feedback sheets on an annual basis to inform Annual Report	DSO's	Date for submission is the 26 th of April 2023 for training completed 2022/2023	GREEN
		eLearning for Group A of the National Safeguarding Training Framework to be made available on the Learning@Wales Website for Caerphilly employees	Nicola Barrett/Carol Brimble	Group A is now available on the Caerphilly page of the Learning@Wales platform	GREEN Would propose deleting
		CMT, Elected Members, management network to complete the Group A eLearning	Nicola Barrett/Gareth Jenkins	CMT, Elected Members and management network to complete the Group A eLearning Module by the end of February 2023 To date, only 13 Elected members have completed the eLearning module as of the 11.5.23. There have been some issues with accessing the training which will need further exploration.	AMBER

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	Recommendation	Action	Who	Progress / Completion	RAG Status
				Further consideration is required for management network members to complete this training.	
		Tier 1 English and Welsh training video's to be available to be accessed by Caerphilly employees only on the learning@wales website	Nicola Barrett/Carol Brimble	This work is in progress and supported by Workforce Development Team. A solution is being sought to ensure that the videos are only accessible by Caerphilly employees.	AMBER
		Monitoring of training delivery via all Tiers under the framework and any issues raised at DSO development group.	DSO's	<p>Deb Lewis and Mike Portlock have continued to deliver Tier 2 training to supplement sessions provided within Service areas. This has been via both a virtual platform and face to face as follows-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15/09/22 via MS Teams • 15/11/22 via MS Teams • 20/04/23 Face to Face • 19/09/23 via MS Teams <p>Further dates will be agreed for 2024.</p> <p>The Workforce Development Team have been able to send list of employees who have completed</p>	AMBER

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				<p>safeguarding training to each to DSO so that this can be compared with their service area lists and to ensure that employees are aware when they need to undertake the 3 year refresher. This is only available if the training has been inputted to Itrent. This will be further discussed at the next DSO Development Group.</p> <p>Discussions have also take place with HR and workforce development team about utilising Itrent to better track safeguarding training. This will be further considered once training is updated in line with the National Safeguarding training Framework.</p>	
		WG implementation of a National Safeguarding Training Framework	Corporate Safeguarding Board/ Nicola Barrett/DSO's	The framework was launched in November 2022. However, training materials, apart from the Group A eLearning model are not yet available and its anticipated they will be made available with a	RED

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				<p>further launch of the framework in November 2023.</p> <p>Group A which is an eLearning module, which is in line with CCBC's Tier 1 training is available on the Learning@Wales platform on the Caerphilly pages. This will be further advertised via the DSO development group and is recommended for new employees via the HR Induction Process.</p> <p>Once all materials from the National Framework are available, all training will be reviewed and the Corporate Safeguarding Training Framework will be updated to reflect any changes. This work can take place alongside any further developments in Itrent supported by the Workforce Development Team.</p>	
5	Self-Assessment Tool	DSO's to review action plan for service area on a quarterly basis within service area	DSO's / Nicola Barrett	The below matters were discussed at the DSO Development group on the 16 th of January 2023 -	GREEN

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring the role of the Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) and the Corporate Safeguarding Policy is promoted routinely across the service area at regular intervals • Tracking and monitoring the delivery of safeguarding training • Ensuring the appropriate storage of confidential information • Ensure the Procurement Safeguarding protocol is embedded in all service areas who commission services • Safeguarding in buildings to be considered as services resume after covid 19 and agile working is implemented <p>DSO's present at the meeting on the 16th of January confirmed the</p>	

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	Recommendation	Action	Who	Progress / Completion	RAG Status
				above were in place in their service areas.	
		DSO's to update self-Assessment on an Annual Basis to feed into the Corporate Safeguarding Board Annual Report	DSO's	Date for submission for 2022/23 is the 26 th of April 2023	GREEN
		DSO's to raise any issues in the quarterly DSO Development Meetings	DSO's	This matter is ongoing. No specific issues being raised currently, however the completion of the updated self-assessments will raise any issues that need further consideration.	Green On going
		Self-Assessment tool to be reviewed in line with Regional Corporate Safeguarding Work	Nicola Barrett	A regional self-assessment tool has been drafted and has been agreed by 4 of the 5 Gwent LA's. The 1 LA who will not be using the self-assessment format going forward is due to their self assessment form currently being online. The new self-assessment will be issued to DSO's to complete for 2023/2024	GREEN Consider changing wording to focus on implementation

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	Recommendation	Action	Who	Progress / Completion	RAG Status
6	Corporate Safeguarding Internal Audit	Findings of internal audit to be feedback to Corporate Safeguarding Board and actions considered by all DSO's.	Internal Audit / Nicola Barrett / DSO's and service areas	The final report is still awaited from Internal Audit due to waiting for responses from some service areas regarding the audits of said service areas. Once the final report is known, any recommendations will be fed into the Forward Work Programme	AMBER
7	Media Campaign	Media campaign now developed by communication team, requires roll out.	Comms Team Nick Rutter/ Nicola Barrett/DSO's	Toilet door posters were made available during and after safeguarding week. Posters also sent to DSO's to be displayed in service areas for staff and the public. Email via communications team was sent out highlighting safeguarding responsibilities to all employees, including a video relating to safeguarding being everyone's business. Social Media platforms also used to highlight safeguarding week.	GREEN
		Development of a safeguarding credit card sized leaflet which can be made available to employees	Leisure Services/Nicola Barrett/DSO's	A draft credit card leaflet has been agreed and has been translated. Final versions of the credit card leaflet in English and Welsh are	AMBER

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				<p>awaited so that printing costs can be agreed and roll out of the card.</p> <p>Board requested that this was implemented by the end of March 2023, there has been a delay due to IT matters and the absence of the Safeguarding Service Manager</p>	
8	LMS	Monitor progress of the WFD and digital services project linked with WG regarding LMS System and its implementation in order for safeguarding training to be supported via the LMS when available	Digital Services/WFD/ Nicola Barrett	Update received on the 10.5.2023: WG funded BETA phase has been completed. The procurement process has stated for the LA's now involved in the process, this is being supported via Blaenau Gwent. Any implementation timescales will be extensive. A partnership agreement between Carmarthenshire CC, BGCBC and CCBC has employed a systems implementation expert, initially from April 2023 through end June 2023. WG funding will fund the majority of this cost and it's been agreed by the partnership that any pilot will be done via social services. The current product	AMBER

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				prototype is via an application known as Thingi.	
9	Increase knowledge of DSO's in respect of Safeguarding	Invite speakers on safeguarding topic's to DSO Development Group	Nicola Barrett	Abolishment of Physical Chastisement video played for DSO's in January DSO Group. Caerphilly Cares presentation postponed until March DSO Group. This presentation was cancelled by the service due to Caerphilly Cares provision being reviewed. Further presentation will be sought for 2023/24.	GREEN Ongoing
10	Corporate Safeguarding on a regional basis	Links with Corporate Safeguarding Leads in Gwent Region to look at consistency of practice.	Nicola Barrett/Corporate Safeguarding regional counterparts	There has been a number of new appointments to the safeguarding lead roles across Gwent. This has meant that work will take place during 2022/23 with likely implementation of any regionally agreed updates in 2023/24	AMBER
		Consider regional self-assessment tool	Nicola Barrett	Regional Self Assessment tool has now been agreed to be used for 2023/2024	GREEN

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		Consider aligning corporate safeguarding training for consistency	Nicola Barrett	Yet to be actioned and will need to be considered in line with the National Safeguarding Training Framework when launched	RED
		Develop comparison key data set.	Nicola Barrett	Agreement across the region to use the key data set from Caerphilly. Safeguarding Leads currently making enquiries within their respective LA's regarding their data collection process to ensure a consistent approach. It is anticipated that this data can then be used for annual reports for 2023/2024	AMBER
11	Role of the DSO	The responsibilities of the DSO to be recognised as being an additional task for the employee on top of the requirements of the employee's substantive role	Board/ HoS/ DSO's	All DSO's to discuss the requirements of their role with senior managers so that they can be given the time to undertake the required tasks of the DSO as set out in the Corporate Safeguarding Policy. DSO's in attendance at the Development Group confirmed that they felt supported in their role as DSO's by their managers. This will	GREEN

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	Recommendation	Action	Who	Progress / Completion	RAG Status
				be reviewed via the self-assessment for 2022/23 for any further matters arising regarding the role of the DSO	
12	Reporting of Safeguarding Data to CMT	6 monthly Reports regarding key safeguarding data to PDM/CMT	HoS/ Safeguarding Lead	First report presented to PDM in December 2022, next report to be incorporated to the Annual Report, to be presented to CMT on 25 th May and PDM on 21 st June 2023	GREEN- On going

Corporate Safeguarding Board – Key Activity Data 2022/23:	
1. Total number of contacts received by the Information, Advice and Assistance (IAA) Team:	17466
2. Of which:	
2a). The number for Adult Services:	6352
2b). The number for Children’s Services:	9565
2c). The number for Families First / SPACE Wellbeing:	SPACE = 1369 of which: FF/SFC = 649 Young Carers = 120
Adult Services:	
3. Referral source:	
Adults:	
AS REFERRALS	
Referral Source	TOTAL
SC - 3rd Sector organisation	480
SC - Advocate	6
SC - Ambulance Service	146
SC - Care Regulator	5
SC - Early Intervention / Prevention Service (Step-up)	2
SC - Education	11
SC - Friend or neighbour	26
SC - Health	1117
SC - Housing	226
SC - Independent Hospital	48
SC - Internal (Social Worker, other team)	501
SC - Local Authority	36
SC - Other	63
SC - Police	1823
SC - Probation	25
SC - Provider	510
SC - Relative	605
SC - Self	722
Total	6352
3a). Duty to Report:	DTRs = 1385
Below are the referral sources for the DTR’s only.	

Appendix 3

Self	32	
Relative	42	
Friend or neighbour	8	
Early intervention prevention service (Step-up)	0	
Health	211	
Education	1	
Housing	50	
Police	120	
Probation	2	
Third Sector Organisation	104	
Local Authority	16	
Independent Hospital	79	
Ambulance Service	53	
Care Regulator	4	
Provider	442	
Advocate	8	
Other	16	
Internal (Social Worker, Other Team)	197	
Total	1,385	
3b). Other referrals:		All other AS referrals = 4967
4. Number of DTR's progressed to enquiries stage?		958
4a). Of which, the number resulting in actions required?		305
Children's Services:		
5. Percentage of contacts where the decision making is within 24 hours (Children's Services NPI)?		9508 of 9565 in time = 99.4%

Appendix 3

6. Referral source:	
Self	183
Relative	729
Friend or neighbour	161
Early intervention prevention service (Step-up)	23
Health	886
Education	1,413
Housing	85
Police	4,518
Probation	289
Third Sector Organisation	161
Local Authority	248
Independent Hospital	27
Ambulance Service	10
Care Regulator	0
Provider	5
Advocate	2
Other	510
Internal (Social Worker, Other Team)	315
Total	9,565
7. Number of DTR's progressing to Strategy Meeting/Discussion?	1242
8. Number progressing to Section 47 investigation?	1094
9. Number of children progressing to Exploitation Strategy Meetings?	62
10. Number of Section 5 (practitioner concern) Strategy Meetings?	99
10a). Of which the number relating to CCBC employees/volunteers?	66
11. TABLE of breakdown of professional background	

Appendix 3

As some practitioners, have more than one role - the figure is higher than in Item 10.		
Practitioner Background	Children's Services	Adult Services
Police	4	1
Education (External)	14	0
Education (CCBC)	16	1
Foster Carers (External)	3	0
Foster Carers (CCBC)	8	0
Children Services (CCBC)	3	0
Sports Development / Coach (External)	9	0
Sports Development / Coach (CCBC)	6	0
Health (External)	6	14
Support / Care Work (External)	3	41
Transport (External)	3	0
Church (External)	1	0
Military Support Services (External)	1	0
Grounds Management (CCBC)	1	0
Maintenance (External)	0	1
Tourism (CCBC)	1	0
Cleaning Services (CCBC)	1	0
Finance (External)	1	0
Sign Language	0	1
TOTAL	79	59
12. Number of children on the Child Protection Register?		198 (as at 31.3.23)

Appendix 3

13. Percentage of Initial Child Protection Conferences held in timescale?	276 of 279 held in time = 98.9%
14. Percentage of Review Child Protection Conferences held in timescale?	473 of 479 held in time = 98.7%
Education:	
15. Number of school audits undertaken in the academic year?	42
16. Number of school audits undertaken where action was required as a result of the audit?	2
Human Resources:	
17. The percentage of new employees 'safely recruited'	100%. All new starters have been subject to safer recruitment procedures with all relevant checks undertaken.
18. The number of employees who have been subject to RA1, RA2 and RA3	RA1: 6 RA2: 26 RA3: 0



SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - (INFORMATION ONLY)

SUBJECT: SOCIAL CARE GRANTS 2023/24

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND HOUSING

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform Members of grant funding available for social care in the 2023/24 financial year.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 The report provides details of current 2023/24 grant funding available for social care. During the financial year further grants are often made available subject to new funding being identified and successful outcomes for bids.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Members are asked to note the content of this report.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 To ensure that Members are aware of the grants available for social care and their intended purpose.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 Appendix 1 provides details of the current grant awards for 2023/24 while appendix 2 highlights how those grant awards contribute towards the Council's wellbeing objectives, These grant awards are categorised as follows: -

- Grants receivable by Caerphilly Social Services for Caerphilly CBC only.
- Grants receivable by Caerphilly Social Services for wider Consortium arrangements.
- Grants receivable by other Organisations for wider Consortium arrangements that include Caerphilly Social Services.

5.2 Members should note that the grant funding is fully committed for specific purposes in line with the terms and conditions set by the grant awarding bodies. At year-end the grant funding bodies request information to satisfy them that monies have been spent in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions.

- 5.3 Where required, external auditors assess expenditure against the terms and conditions of the grant. This assessment normally comprises of a random sample of spend, followed by an in-depth scrutiny of the sampled items. This can also involve ensuring proper procurement processes have been adhered to and confirmation that expenditure complies with the conditions of the grant and the intended purpose. Any issues identified by the auditors will be investigated and this could lead to a need to review a larger sample of expenditure. The schedule in Appendix 1 shows which grants are subject to audit review.
- 5.4 The external auditors produce a report annually summarising any issues that have been identified during their audit of the Authority's grants.

5.5 **Conclusion**

The report is provided to ensure that Members are aware of the social care grants available to fund services that fall under the responsibility of the Corporate Director for Social Services and Housing, along with their intended purpose. Any additional awards of grant funding made available throughout the 2022/23 financial year will be identified through the regular budget monitoring information reported to the Social Services Scrutiny Committee.

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 There are no assumptions included in this report.

7. **SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment is not needed because the issues covered are for information purposes only.

8. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 Grant funding levels can change from year to year leading to uncertainty of funding. As mentioned above, many of the grants are subject to audit and expenditure must comply with the grant terms and conditions set by the awarding body. Failure to comply may result in a qualification of the grant by the external auditors, which could result in the clawback of the grant funding.

9. **PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Grant funded posts have the potential to be at risk if funding is withdrawn. Wherever possible this risk is mitigated through fixed-term appointments to grant funded posts.

10. **CONSULTATIONS**

- 10.1 All consultation responses have been incorporated into this report.

11. **STATUTORY POWER**

- 11.1 Local Government Acts 1972 and 2003 and the Council's Financial Regulations.

12. URGENCY (CABINET ITEMS ONLY)

12.1 This report is for information only and as such does not require a Cabinet decision.

Author: Mike Jones, Financial Services Manager, jonesmj@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: David Street, Corporate Director for Social Services and Housing,
street@caerphilly.gov.uk
Jo Williams, Assistant Director for Adult Services, willij6@caerphilly.gov.uk
Gareth Jenkins, Assistant Director for Children's Services, jenmig2@caerphilly.gov.uk
Stephen Harris, Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer,
harrisr@caerphilly.gov.uk
Cllr. Elaine Forehead, Cabinet Member for Social Services, forehe@caerphilly.gov.uk
Cllr. Donna Cushing, Chair, cushid@caerphilly.gov.uk
Cllr. Marina Chacon-Dawson, Vice-Chair, chacom@caerphilly.gov.uk

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Schedule of Social Care Grant Funding for 2023/24

Appendix 2 Potential Impact on Wellbeing Objectives of Social Care Grant Funding for 2023/24

APPENDIX 1**Schedule of Social Care Grant Funding for 2023/24**

Grants Receivable by Caerphilly Social Services for Caerphilly C.B.C. Only							
Grant	Funding Body	Grant Funding	Matched Funding	Division	Lead Officer	Purpose of Grant	Subject to Audit
Social Care Workforce Grant	Welsh Government	£2,671,865	-	Adults and Children	Senior Management Team	To supporting the sustainability of the social care workforce and social care services, ensuring they are better placed to meet increased or unexpected demands	No
Mental Capacity Act/Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Grant	Welsh Government	£71,411	-	Adults	Service Manager	To further support work to address the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards backlog and to deliver Mental Capacity Act training	No
Implementation of the Performance and Improvement Framework	Welsh Government	£40,000	-	Adults and Children	Senior Management Team	To provide capacity to be able to engage with and implement the new Performance and Improvement Framework	No
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children Grant	Home Office	£143 per day	-	Children's	Service Manager	Caerphilly are currently supporting 11 asylum seekers	No

Grants Receivable by Caerphilly Social Services for Wider Consortium Arrangements

Grant	Funding Body	Grant Funding	Matched Funding	Division	Lead Officer	Purpose of Grant	Subject to Audit
Youth Justice Grant	Youth Justice Board	2023/24 allocation yet to be confirmed. 2022/23 allocation totalled £459,306	-	Children's	Service Manager	To tackle local youth justice priorities within Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent.	Yes
Youth Offending Police Grant	Police and Crime Commissioner	2023/24 allocation yet to be confirmed. 2022/23 allocation totalled £79,150	-	Children's	Service Manager	To tackle local youth justice priorities within Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent.	No
Remand Framework for Children Grant	Youth Justice Board	2023/24 allocation yet to be confirmed. 2022/23 allocation totalled £20,830	-	Children's	Service Manager	Funding allocation for remands to youth detention accommodation of children and young people (under 18 years of age) Funding for 2022/23 included £13,206 for Caerphilly and £7,624 for Blaeanu Gwent.	No
Pages 3 National Approach to Advocacy Grant	Welsh Government	£118,175 for Gwent including £37,580 for Caerphilly	-	Children's	Service Manager	To support the implementation of the National Approach to Statutory Advocacy for Children and Young People across the Gwent region.	No
Children and Communities Grant	Welsh Government	Total grant of £11,976,567 of which 3,171,546 is earmarked for the Families First Partnership, £75,726 for St. David's Day Fund and £49,104 for Out of Court Parenting Support.	-	Children's	Service Manager	The Families First Partnership provides a range of services to support families living in Caerphilly county borough. The St. David's Day schemes support young people who are or have been in local authority care to access opportunities that will lead them towards independent and successful lives. The Out of Court Parenting Support funding is used to employ a parenting practitioner to support parents following the implementation of Welsh Government legislation banning smacking.	Yes

Grants Receivable by Other Organisations for Wider Consortium Arrangements Including Caerphilly Social Services						
Grant	Funding Body	Grant Funding	Matched Funding	Grant Recipient	Lead Officer	Purpose of Grant
Social Care Wales Workforce Development	Social Care Wales	£1,508,181 for the entire Gwent Region	Grant funds maximum of 70% of total expenditure.	Blaenau Gwent Social Services	Learning and Development Manager	To develop an appropriately trained workforce across the Social Care sector (not just Local Authority staff).
Regional Integration Fund (Revenue)	Welsh Government	£26,972,126 for the entire Gwent Region	No match funding requirement for 2023/24	Aneurin Bevan University Health Board	Corporate Director for Social Services and Housing	To transform health and social care services in response to a Parliamentary Review, driving integration and focussing on building primary care services, providing care closer to home and supporting the transformation of hospital-based care.
Regional Integration Fund (Capital)	Welsh Government	The total value of this fund is dependent on the bids submitted each year. In 2022/23 the total value amounted to £22,570,229.	-	Aneurin Bevan University Health Board	Corporate Director for Social Services and Housing	(a) To develop housing and accommodation that will be let as social rented tenancies such as extra care and supported living, (b) to rebalance the residential care market between in-house and independent provision and (c) To develop integrated health and social care hubs.

APPENDIX 2

Potential Impact on Wellbeing Objectives of Social Services Grant Funding for 2023/24

Grant	Well Being Objective Contributed Towards	Specific Outcome Achieved
Social Care Workforce Grant	2.Enabling employment.	1.Aim to reduce the impact of poverty by supporting people into better employment prospects.
	6.Support citizens to remain independent and	3.Provide support to reduce the need for higher tier statutory interventions. 6.Continue to identify opportunities to work collaboratively wherever appropriate.
Mental Capacity Act/Deprivation of	6.Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being.	1. Support people to 'help themselves' by providing comprehensive advice and information including signposting to other services. 3.Provide support to reduce the need for higher tier statutory interventions.
Implementation of the Performance and Improvement Framework	6.Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being.	4.Continue to identify opportunities to work collaboratively wherever appropriate.
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children Grant	6.Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being.	3.Provide support to reduce the need for higher tier statutory interventions.
Youth Justice Grant Page 34	1.Improve education opportunities for all.	4.Help those who are not able to follow a traditional attainment path.
		5.Support learning that enables young and adult employment opportunities including a focus on 'future skills'.
		8.Safeguard all children and young people in order to create a climate for learning, particularly for those most vulnerable.
	2.Enabling employment.	1.Aim to reduce the impact of poverty by supporting people into better employment prospects.
6.Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being.	1. Support people to 'help themselves' by providing comprehensive advice and information including signposting to other services.	
	2.Have 'meaningful conversations' to help people identify 'what matters'to them to inform'outcome focused' planning.	
	3.Provide support to reduce the need for higher tier statutory interventions.	
	4.Continue to identify opportunities to work collaboratively wherever appropriate.	
Youth Offending Police Grant	as Youth Offending Good Practice Grant (above)	as Youth Justice Grant (above)
Remand Framework for Children Grant	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
National Approach to Advocacy Grant	6.Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being.	1. Support people to 'help themselves' by providing comprehensive advice and information including signposting to other services. 4.Continue to identify opportunities to work collaboratively wherever appropriate.
Children and Communities Grant	1.Improve education opportunities for all.	1.Aim to reduce the impact of poverty within early years.

Grant	Well Being Objective Contributed Towards	Specific Outcome Achieved
		2.Raise standards of attainment. 4.Help those who are not able to follow a traditional attainment path. 8.Safeguard all children and young people in order to create a climate for learning, particularly for those most vulnerable.
	5.Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.	1.Aim to reduce inequalities in health across the county borough.
	6.Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being.	1. Support people to 'help themselves' by providing comprehensive advice and information including signposting to other services. 2.Have 'meaningful conversations' to help people identify 'what matters'to them to inform'outcome focused' planning. 3.Provide support to reduce the need for higher tier statutory interventions. 4.Continue to identify opportunities to work collaboratively wherever appropriate.
Regional Integration Fund (Revenue and Capital)	1.Improve education opportunities for all.	4.Help those who are not able to follow a traditional attainment path.
Page 35		8.Safeguard all children and young people in order to create a climate for learning, particularly for those most vulnerable.
	3.Address the availability, condition and sustainability of homes throughout the county borough and provide advice, assistance or support to help improve people's well-being.	4.Deliver adaptations to support the health and well-being of people in their own homes and maximise the delivery and appropriate use of accessible homes.
	5.Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.	1.Aim to reduce inequalities in health across the county borough.
	6.Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being.	2.Creating a place that supports a healthy lifestyle. 1. Support people to 'help themselves' by providing comprehensive advice and information including signposting to other services. 2.Have 'meaningful conversations' to help people identify 'what matters'to them to inform'outcome focused' planning. 3.Provide support to reduce the need for higher tier statutory interventions. 4.Continue to identify opportunities to work collaboratively wherever appropriate.