



## **HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 1ST DECEMBER 2015**

**SUBJECT: CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE  
ADULTS POLICY**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR, SOCIAL SERVICES**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To present the final Corporate Safeguarding Policy (attached at Appendix 1) to Scrutiny Committee for information following endorsement by Cabinet on 14th October 2015 and presentation to Council on 17th November 2015.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 In the period March to May 2014 the Welsh Audit Office (WAO) completed a review 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.
- 2.2 The findings of the Review were published in October 2014 and reported to Cabinet on 10th December 2014 where it was agreed that a cross Directorate working group of key Officers would be established to implement the recommendations made by WAO. The working group developed the attached overarching Corporate Safeguarding Policy to address the areas for improvement identified by the WAO.

### **3. LINKS TO STRATEGY**

- 3.1 Safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults is a key statutory duty of the Council.

### **4. THE REPORT**

- 4.1 It is important to note that the WAO Review did not identify any weaknesses in the operational, day to day safeguarding arrangements for children and young people in Caerphilly. The recommendations related to the corporate governance of those arrangements.
- 4.2 The Review made five proposals for improvement. These were:
- To develop a Corporate Safeguarding Policy that clearly specifies roles, responsibilities and procedures for safeguarding.
  - The Council should clarify who designated officers with responsibility for safeguarding are.

- Improve the range, quality and coverage of safeguarding performance reporting to Members to provide adequate assurance that corporate arrangements are working effectively.
- Ensure all Elected Members and staff who come into contact with children on a regular basis receive training on safeguarding and child protection issues and the Council's corporate policy on safeguarding. This should also include volunteers and contractors commissioned by the Council.
- To identify and agree an appropriate internal audit programme of work for safeguarding.

4.3 The attached Corporate Safeguarding Policy for Children and Vulnerable Adults addresses all the improvements required by the WAO.

4.4 Drafts of the Policy have been presented to Corporate Management Team and Cabinet and all suggested amendments were made to the final document presented to Council in November.

## **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 This report requires no specific equalities impact assessment.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There is likely to be demand for additional training to be provided for identified staff groups. This may incur additional costs and will be continually reviewed as the work progresses.

## **7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no direct personnel implications associated with this report however, a review of HR policies to ensure they address safeguarding issues will be a priority for the HR Strategy Group and the Corporate Safeguarding Group.

## **8. CONSULTATIONS**

8.1 Please refer to Consultees listed below.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 That Scrutiny Committee receives the final Policy for information.

## **10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 Compliance with the recommendations from the Wales Audit Office Review will further strengthen the authority's arrangements for the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

11.1 Local Government Act 2000.

Author: Gareth Jenkins, Assistant Director – Children’s Services  
Consultees: Cabinet  
Corporate Management Team  
Statutory Director of Social Services  
Social Services Senior Management Team  
Cabinet Member for Social Services  
Corporate Safeguarding Group

Appendices:  
Appendix 1 Caerphilly County Borough Council, Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Corporate Policy.