



SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 14TH JUNE 2022

SUBJECT: ANNUAL CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING REPORT 2021 - 2022

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR – SOCIAL SERVICES AND HOUSING

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present Scrutiny Committee with the 2021-2022 Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report and the Corporate Safeguarding Board's Forward Work Programme.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Scrutiny Committee will be aware that the Wales Audit Office (now Audit Wales) undertook a follow up Review of Corporate Safeguarding Arrangements for Children in Caerphilly in May 2019. In response, the Corporate Safeguarding Board (the Board) developed an Action Plan to address both the strategic recommendations made and the areas of good practice for consideration identified in the Review. This Action Plan was completed during 2021 and agreement given for it to be replaced by a Forward Work Programme.
- 2.2 The Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report, attached at Appendix 1, provides 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.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Scrutiny Committee are requested to note the content of the Annual Corporate Safeguarding Board Report 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 The Wales Audit Office 2019 Review concluded that;

Although the Council has made some progress in addressing our previous recommendations, the Council needs to further strengthen its corporate safeguarding oversight and assurance arrangements

5.2 It is really important to note that this was a review of the corporate governance of safeguarding arrangements and did not consider operational safeguarding practice and procedures for children which is the responsibility of Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW).

5.3 The Review identified 5 key areas for improvement along with several areas of good practice that the Council could consider going forward. The Board agreed that both the required improvements and the suggested good practice should be included in the Action Plan.

5.4 In turn, the Board provided appropriate governance arrangements that supported the implementation of the Action Plan and progress has been reported to Scrutiny Committee through the Annual Report process.

5.5 Board members acknowledged the inevitable impact that the global pandemic had on timescales for achieving a number of the actions however, progress was made and the Board approved the Action Plan as being completed at their meeting on 13th September 2021.

5.6 The Board agreed that a new Forward Work Programme would be introduced for the remainder of 2021-2022 to ensure continued monitoring of arrangements and oversee future areas of service development and improvement.

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, Corporate Director – Social Services and Housing
streed@caerphilly.gov.uk
Councillor Elaine Forehead, Cabinet Member for Social Services
forehe@caerphilly.gov.uk
Councillor Donna Cushing, Chair – Social Services Scrutiny Committee
cushid@caerphilly.gov.uk
Councillor Marina Chacon-Dawson, Vice Chair – Social Services Scrutiny
Committee
chacom@caerphilly.gov.uk
Nicola Barrett, Service Manager with responsibility for safeguarding
barren@caerphilly.gov.uk
CCBC Corporate Safeguarding Board
Social Services Senior Management Team
Children's Services Divisional Management Team

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report 2021 – 2022
Appendix 2 Corporate Safeguarding Board Forward Work Programme