



EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 16TH JULY 2024

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING REPORTS FOR
2023 - 2024**

REPORT BY: INTERIM STATUTORY DIRECTOR – SOCIAL SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present the 2023 - 2024 Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report, the Forward Work Programme and Safeguarding Key Activity Data to Scrutiny Committee 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. Key safeguarding activity data is also reported and is attached at Appendix 3 for information.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Scrutiny Committee is requested to note the content of the three reports and the progress made in implementing the Forward Work Programme.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

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

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 This is the ninth Annual Report and it provides a strategic overview of the progress made in implementing the Forward Work Programme during 2023-2024.

- 5.2 The Annual Reports were presented to the Corporate Safeguarding Board on 3rd May 2024 where they were ratified and approval was given for them to progress to Social Services Scrutiny Committee today and directly into Cabinet tomorrow (17th July 2024). The reports are for information purposes and there are no decisions required.
- 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 2024-2025 and these will now be added to the Forward Work Programme.
- 5.5 The Key Safeguarding Activity Data Report 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 members of the Corporate Safeguarding Board.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Act 2014

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Consultees: Dave Street, Deputy Chief Executive
Councillor Sean Morgan, Leader of Council
Councillor Elaine Forehead, Cabinet Member for Social Care
Councillor Teresa Parry, Chair of Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Brenda Miles, Vice Chair of Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee
Mark S. Williams, Corporate Director for Economy and Environment
Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services
Stephen Harris, Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer
Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services

Appendices: 1. Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report for Board dated 3rd May 2024
2. Corporate Safeguarding Board Forward Work Programme 2023-24
3. Corporate Safeguarding Key Activity Data for 2023-24