



Cyngor Sir Powys County Council

POWYS CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING GROUP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Context

Welsh Government policy documents set out clear expectations of the leadership on safeguarding matters needed corporately from senior members and officers in local authorities, with a collective responsibilities for planning improvements. However, the Wales Audit Office 'Review of Corporate Safeguarding Arrangements in Welsh Councils' (published in July 2015) found that many corporate safeguarding responsibilities were underdeveloped and not well understood.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To ensure that all members and staff fulfil their roles and responsibilities in helping to keep people safe from harm and abuse, acknowledging that safeguarding is everybody's business in every service within the Council.

2. Aims

- 2.1 To ensure that the Council has in place and operates effectively guidance, management and assurance processes and controls for safeguarding children and adults at risk.
- 2.2 To help the Council carry out these duties at corporate, service and partnership levels in order to fulfil in full its statutory responsibilities.
- 2.3 To drive forward improvements in safeguarding policy and practice.
- 2.4 To consider matters referred to the Group within its terms of reference.

3. Responsibilities of the Group

- 3.1 To take an overview of the Council's responsibilities towards safeguarding and dealing with violence against women (including issues such as domestic abuse, stalking, harassment, forced marriage and modern slavery).
- 3.2 To examine ways in which the Council as a whole can help to keep people safer and improve safeguarding activity in respect of children and adults at risk by applying a common and collaborative approach across different areas of policy.
- 3.3 To ensure that the Council and its departments are fully compliant with legislation, policy, regulations and guidance in respect of safeguarding roles and responsibilities.
- 3.4 To monitor and scrutinise the performance of safeguarding activities across the Council, supporting good practice, challenging and holding to account.

3.5

Appendix 2

- 3.5 To ensure that elected Members are regularly updated on issues relating to safeguarding practice and understand their roles and responsibilities for this area of work.
- 3.6 To develop and oversee implementation of an annual work programme for the Group.
- 3.7 To ensure that positive practices are maintained, lessons are learnt and changes made in the areas that require improvements.
- 3.8 To develop and oversee implementation of a Council-wide safeguarding policy.
- 3.9 To identify emerging themes and ensure that the Council's safeguarding policy remains fit for purpose.
- 3.10 To ensure safe recruitment policy and processes are implemented and adhered to across the Council (including schools), with monitoring in respect of new and existing employees, contractors and volunteers on a scheduled basis.
- 3.11 To develop and oversee implementation of a Corporate Safeguarding workforce development strategy and training plan.
- 3.12 To maintain oversight of all developments, plans, policies and strategies for safeguarding and to make appropriate recommendations for action.
- 3.13 To ensure that referrals and investigations under Part 4 of the All Wales Child Protection Procedures (2008) are managed effectively where they involve allegations of abuse (in their private life or working capacity) against staff working for the local authority.
- 3.14 To produce an annual safeguarding report (linking with the requirement for an annual report through the Regional Safeguarding Board).
- 3.154 To ensure that there are good joint working arrangements between Council departments and partner agencies, including the Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Board and the Powys Local Operational Group (PLOG).
- 3.16 To ensure that thematic safeguarding issues are actively addressed across the Council - e.g. child sexual exploitation, human trafficking, modern slavery, MARAC (the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences used for high-risk domestic abuse cases) and MAPPA (the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements used for helping in the management of violent and sexual offenders).

4. Membership

- 4.1 Standing membership of the group will include:

The Portfolio Holder(s) who act as Safeguarding Champions

Portfolio Holder for Children's, Youth, Libraries and Leisure Services

Portfolio Holder for Adult Services

Relevant Chief Officers

Director of Social Services

Director of Education

Chief Executive (Chairing for six months)

Strategic Director – Place

Appendix 2

Designated Safeguarding Lead from each Council portfolio/service area:

Head of Childrens Services

Head of Adults Services (Operations)

Additional Learning Needs Manager

Professional Lead – HR

Head of Transformation Adult Services

Head of Leisure and Recreation

Senior Manager for Safeguarding/Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

Legal Representative

- 4.2 A representative must be identified to attend a meeting if the named person is unable to do so.
- 4.3 With the approval of the Chair additional members can be co-opted on to the Group.
- 4.4 According to the agenda, individuals who are not part of the Group may be invited to attend meetings to discuss and/or present key items.

5. Governance Arrangements

- 5.1 The Group will meet on a quarterly basis (or more frequently if required).
- 5.2 The Group will be chaired by the Chief Executive initially for 6 months and then by the Director of Social Services.
- 5.3 Business support will be provided through Corporate Services.
- 5.4 Designated Safeguarding Leads will be responsible for obtaining from and disseminating back into their service areas information and actions; they will be accountable for the completion of actions and tasks attributed to their service area.
- 5.5 The Group will report key risks, issues and performance to the Chief Officer Team on a quarterly basis and will act as the corporate conduit to the Regional Safeguarding Boards for adults and children.

6. Reporting to Cabinet and Scrutiny Committees

- 6.1 Cabinet and Scrutiny Committees will receive information regarding the work of the Group through an annual safeguarding report and a six-monthly update. This will provide an opportunity for Members to scrutinise, challenge and take ownership of relevant actions. Reports detailing the specific work within individual portfolios will be reported through the relevant Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the agreed forward work programme.
- 6.2 Members of Cabinet and the Scrutiny Committee will receive information about the work programme of the Group, the progress against this work programme and the main messages stemming from the performance management and quality assurance arrangements.

Appendix 2

- 6.3 Observations of the Cabinet and Scrutiny Committee will be considered when determining the priorities of the Group's future work programmes.

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