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CABINET

Tuesday, 31st July, 2018

The use of Welsh by participants is welcomed. If you wish to use Welsh please inform us by noon, two working days before the meeting

S U P P L E M E N T A R Y P A C K

1.	CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING BOARD SIX-MONTH UPDATE REPORT
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To consider the Corporate Safeguarding Board six-month update report.

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CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

CABINET EXECUTIVE

31 July 2018

REPORT AUTHOR: David Powell, Deputy Chief Executive

SUBJECT: Corporate Safeguarding Six-Month Update

REPORT FOR: Information

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The Corporate Safeguarding Group has been in place since January 2018, with progress being made on identifying areas for development and raising awareness of safeguarding roles, responsibilities and issues.
- 1.2. The group held meetings on 30 January 2018 and 29 June 2018, and a half-day workshop took place on 13 April 2018.
- 1.3. The group will continue to meet quarterly, with the next meeting due in September 2018.
- 1.4. Plans have been agreed for awareness raising and promotional events for National Safeguarding Week, which is taking place 12-16 November 2018.
- 1.5. All elected members have now attended Corporate Parenting Training and a further event will be held in December 2018.
- 1.6. The Terms of Reference and Corporate Safeguarding Policy and Procedure will be reviewed and updated for accuracy.

2. Background

- 2.1. 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.
- 2.2. The 2017 CSSIW (now known as CIW) inspection of Childrens Services resulted in a Warning Notice from the Minister. A gap had been identified in the Corporate Safeguarding arrangements, and work was undertaken to plan how to address the issues raised to ensure robust arrangements were in place throughout the Council.

- 2.3.** On 30 January 2018, the Cabinet resolved:
- 2.3.1. That the Council adopt the draft Corporate Safeguarding Policy and Procedure.
 - 2.3.2. That the Council agree to establish a Corporate Safeguarding Group, as set out in the draft terms of reference subject to the Portfolio Holder for HR, ICT and Communications being added to the membership.
 - 2.3.3. That relevant Scrutiny Committees and the Cabinet receive six-monthly reports from the Corporate Safeguarding Group.
- 2.4.** 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 responsibility for planning improvements. The policies were used to develop a corporate approach to safeguarding within the Council.
- 2.5.** The Policy and Procedure document is guidance for all councillors, employees, volunteers and contracted service providers on what to do if they suspect a child or adult at risk may be experiencing harm or is at risk of harm, and details of the steps that the Council will take to protect and safeguard children and adults at risk.
- 2.6.** The purpose of the group is “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.”
- 2.7.** One aim of this group is 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. The Portfolio Holders for Adult Social Care and Young People & Culture are standing members of the Group, alongside Chief Officers and Designated Safeguarding Leads from each Council portfolio/service area.
- 2.8.** The Deputy Chief Executive undertook to be Chair of the group for the initial six-month period of January 2018 to June 2018, and was succeeded by the Director for Social Services as from 01 July 2018.
- 2.9.** The group first met on 30 January 2018.

3. Summary

- 3.1.** Work undertaken by the group during the last six months includes:
- 3.1.1. Completing the WAO ‘True for Us’ Checklist of key features of corporate arrangements for safeguarding.

- 3.1.2. Developing a plan for a showcase event for National Safeguarding Week (12-16 November 2018).
- 3.1.3. Arranging Periodic workshops for PCSB on specific departmental concerns.
- 3.2. On 13 April 2018, the group met for a half day workshop, facilitated by Practice Solutions, to build an agreed work programme for the group, and to complete the 'Appendix 2 – 'True for Us Checklist' – key features of effective corporate arrangements for safeguarding', which formed part of the Wales Audit Office 'Review of Corporate Safeguarding Arrangements in Welsh Councils' (published in July 2015).
- 3.3. The self-evaluation checklist split the thirty-four Corporate Assurance Standards into seven sections:
 - Corporate leadership
 - Corporate policy
 - Safe recruitment of staff
 - Training and development
 - Partners, volunteers and commissioned services
 - Systems
 - Scrutiny and assurance
- 3.4. Safeguarding is by definition a very complex area and not everything that needs to be done can be done at once. It requires careful analysis, understanding, co-operation, and partnership working which, to be successful, requires realistic and manageable time-scales.
- 3.5. To manage this agenda, the Board started the process of prioritising its activities and agreed its first work programme to get work started.
- 3.6. The Board recognised that the Social Services function of the Organisation was compliant with the requirements of the Audit. However, recognised that the wider Organisation had some Actions to take forward as the standards were only partially met.
- 3.7. The Board's second meeting was held on 29th June in which the first three months progress was reviewed and the outcome of the assessment of the Welsh Office standards was prioritised. This process is ongoing and will be an important element in the Induction of the new Director of Social Services as she identifies the opportunities and challenges which face the Council.
- 3.8. These first steps are very important in establishing the right environment for officers and members from across the Authority to work together in a meaningful way to safeguard vulnerable people in our communities.

- 3.8.1. The workshop also considered the what 'good outcomes' would look like, and these were identified as:
- Signs of early intervention in families
 - Reassurance that money being spent is being spent well (value for money)
 - Fewer cases going onto Looked After Children or Child Protection (recognising that Children on the register may increase as a result of fewer Looked After Children)
 - Learning lessons across the piece.

3.9. Work planned by the group during the next six months includes:

- 3.9.1. Reviewing the Terms of Reference.
- 3.9.2. Reviewing the Corporate Safeguarding Policy and Procedure.
- 3.9.3. Seeking a delegated Portfolio Holder decision to agree any updates or amendments to the Terms of Reference and/or Corporate Safeguarding Policy and Procedure.
- 3.9.4. Reviewing the Corporate Assurance Standards, particularly those which require action as they were considered to be 'under development' or 'not in place' as at 13 April 2018.
- 3.9.5. Promoting National Safeguarding Week (12-16 November 2018).
- 3.9.6. Meeting in September and December 2018.
- 3.9.7. Reporting a further six-month update to Cabinet in January 2019.