

Health and Care Scrutiny Committee
27th January 2023

Report Title:	Corporate Safeguarding Board Activity Report
Lead Officer:	Nina Davies, Interim Director of Social Services and Housing

Key Issues in the report highlighted by Lead Officer

Summary of most recent Corporate Safeguarding Board activity including updates about work in progress, achievements and action plans.

Key Feeders (tick all that apply)

Strategic Risk		Cabinet Work Plan	
Director / Head of Service Key Issue		External / Internal Inspection	X
Existing Commitment / Annual Report	X	Performance / Finance Issue	
Suggestion from Public		Referral from Council / Committee	
Corporate Improvement Plan		Impacting Public / other services	
Service Integrated Business Plan			
Suggestion from Members			
Partnerships			

Scrutiny Impact (tick all that apply)

Policy Review		Performance	X
Informing Policy Development		Evidence Gathering	
Risk		Corporate Improvement Plan	
Service Integrated Business Plan		Partnerships	
Pre-Decision Scrutiny		Finance / Budget	

Other (please specify)

Suggested scrutiny activity - Committee's Role:

To read and note contents of the update regarding the Corporate Safeguarding Board, scrutinise the work and it's impact, and provide constructive challenge to the Council about it's safeguarding activity in an impartial and independent manner.

On what specific elements of the report would scrutiny comment add value

Scrutiny on progress against recommendations in the Action Plan.
 Scrutiny on the way the Corporate Safeguarding Board monitors safeguarding across the whole of the Council.

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

CABINET EXECUTIVE

For Cabinet 7th February 2023

REPORT AUTHOR: Nina Davies, Interim Director of Social Services and Housing

SUBJECT: Corporate Safeguarding Board Activity Update

REPORT FOR: Information

1. Introduction

1.1 Cabinet is requested to note this update from the Corporate Safeguarding Board.

1.2 Since the last Corporate Safeguarding Board activity update to Cabinet on 8th November 2022, the Board met on 5th December 2022. This report summarises the information provided at that meeting.

2. Agenda discussions

2.1 Update on Wales Audit Office Safeguarding Audit – Report and Development Plan: Attendees were informed that the draft report had been reviewed and PCC advised of the publication date, with an item scheduled for discussion at Governance and Audit Committee in February 2023. A Development Plan has been developed outlining actions to address the expected recommendations in the WAO Report and these were discussed. The Development Plan and Audit report will be circulated to SLT; and the Corporate Safeguarding Working Group will meet to review progress against the actions in the Development Plan ahead of Governance and Audit in February.

2.2 Corporate Safeguarding Board Policy, Briefing Summary and Terms of Reference: These documents were drafted following WG Corporate Safeguarding Policy Guidance. Consultation has been undertaken with EMT, SLT, Scrutiny and Cabinet EMT ahead of final review at the December Corporate Safeguarding Board meeting, pending final approval by Cabinet on 13th December 2022. Translation and graphics work is underway pending corporate communications and integration into the inter and intranet landing pages that are being established.

2.3 Corporate Safeguarding Self-Assessment Toolkit: Work is underway to look at how this self-assessment can be included within the wider corporate self-evaluation that Heads of Service already complete, to avoid duplication / repetition. The Toolkit has various Standards to help Heads of Service consider safeguarding in their service areas, to inform their action plans to focus work during the year ahead; the action plans will be reviewed at Corporate Safeguarding Board.

2.4 Reports into Corporate Safeguarding Board: discussions were held about how service specific safeguarding information and data could/should be shared with the Board. Work is

underway to develop a Safeguarding Dashboard, which would allow a live link to be shared. Reporting by exception was the preferred option in the interim, where important, strategic and critical matters are considered to allow further discussion as necessary.

2.5 Young People's Housing (16/17 year olds): Powys have had 14 homeless presentations from 16-17year olds between April and November 2022 (although two of these presented twice, so 12 presentations in total). Homelessness is increasing generally and is impacting younger people. The benefits of collaborative working with Social Services is already being seen in such situations. The highest reason for homelessness presentations is when other relatives or friends are no longer willing / able to accommodate the young person, with Newtown having the highest number of presentations in the county.

2.6 Elective Home Education: whilst numbers of Elective Home Educated children and young people has increased (270 @ 21.11.22), the figure changes daily but is seen more in secondary education. Contact with these families by the EHE Officers has increased from 29% in January 2022 to 95% in November 2022, and communications are seen as key to supporting re-integration, supporting education and safeguarding oversight. Despite their value, there is concern about when the grant funding for the posts may end. It was noted that families may not tell the Authority that they are home educating their children, so there may be some unregistered EHE families and this is where the greatest risk sits. As such, it is important that Powys Officers pass on information if they become aware of such a situation.

2.7 Mandatory Training, including VAWDASV: figures for Level 1 Training sits at 79% at end of Quarter Two, being above the Welsh average of 64%. 420 staff have received Level 2 Ask and Act training, exceeding the 2022 target. A digital version of the Ask and Act training is being co-produced with Ceredigion to avoid those needing the refresher training taking a place on the main course. Champion training started in early December 2022, the White Ribbon Steering Group has 17 Ambassadors and Champions, with publicity and awareness events planned in the new year including a Young Advocacy Group. VAWDASV Policy is going to the Policy Forum shortly.

Although compliance with Safeguarding Mandatory training has increased to 66.5% (@25.11.2022) this needs further work, particularly with the hard-to-reach service areas. Discussion was held about whether access to, and content of, the courses could be simplified to promote engagement, and corporate communications will be issued in the new year to encourage completion.

2.8 Adult Social Care Safeguarding: It was highlighted that the highest number of safeguarding referrals for a year were received in November 2022, at 137.

2.9 Future Agenda Items are to include

- Work around Child Employment permits
- Update from Service areas about National Safeguarding Week
- Safeguarding Dashboard
- Review progress of Corporate Safeguarding Development Plan

4. Future Corporate Safeguarding Board Meetings

4.1 Future meetings are scheduled for 9th March, 8th June, 15th September and 14th December 2023.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
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Cabinet receives this briefing as an update from the Chair of the Corporate Safeguarding Board.	To ensure Cabinet are fully sighted on work to date.
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Relevant Policy (ies):	Corporate Safeguarding Policy		
Within Policy:	Y	Within Budget:	Y

Relevant Local Member(s):	All elected Members.
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Person(s) To Implement Decision:	N/A
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	N/A

Is a review of the impact of the decision required?	N
If yes, date of review	N/A
Person responsible for the review	N/A
Date review to be presented to Portfolio Holder / Cabinet for information or further action	N/A

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