

Council Response Form

Council action planned in response to the recommendations issued by Audit Wales

Council: Powys County Council

Report title: Follow up review of arrangements for corporate safeguarding

Issue date: December 2022

Document reference: 3277A2022

Ref	Recommendation	Council action planned in response to recommendation issued by Audit Wales	Target date for completion of actions	Responsible officer
R1	The Council needs to urgently assure itself that it has robust arrangements in place for corporate safeguarding and use appropriate mechanisms such as governance & audit committee, scrutiny, the Corporate Safeguarding Group and internal audit to help it achieve that assurance.	<p>Review Terms of Reference for Corporate Safeguarding Board</p> <p>CSB updates to be provided to Cabinet and Scrutiny.</p> <p>Internal audit forward work programme to be extended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWAP Internal Audit on Safer Recruitment (DBS) started 28/11/22 	<p>5th December 2022</p> <p>7th February 2023 then ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	Nina Davies

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		<p>Improved communication to Councillors, staff and members of the public:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications and press releases issued. • Creation of safeguarding internet and intranet pages <p>Completion of Annual Report</p> <p>Annual self-evaluation to be completed by all services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding to be incorporated within annual corporate self-evaluation process. <p>Corporate Safeguarding Development Plan (actions to be undertaken in response to WAO recommendations) to be discussed at Senior Leadership Team, with Corporate Safeguarding Board, and Health and Care Scrutiny Committee in March 2023</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>March 2023</p> <p>September 2023</p> <p>June 2023</p> <p>March 2023</p>	
R2	<p>The Council should agree and implement a corporate safeguarding policy and ensure it is easily accessible and understandable to staff, members and other stakeholders, and that it is reviewed periodically to ensure it is kept up to date and embedded in the day-to-day workings of every service in the Council.</p>	<p>Approved Corporate Safeguarding Policy. One page summary created.</p> <p>Policy to be reviewed every 3 years, or earlier as required. Added to Corporate Policy Repository/Tracker.</p>	<p>Approved by Cabinet on 13th December 2022.</p> <p>Min every 3 years.</p>	<p>Nina Davies</p>

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		Safeguarding internet and intranet pages.	March 2023	
		Communication of above.	Ongoing	
R3	The Council needs to urgently ensure that the Corporate Safeguarding Group is carrying out its responsibilities in accordance with the Group's own Terms of Reference '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'.	Updated Terms of Reference.	Completed 5 th December 2022	Nina Davies
		Annual self-evaluation for all services.	June 2023	
		Completion of Annual Report.	September 2023	
		Improved communication.	Ongoing	
R4	The Council needs to publicise the roles and responsibilities of the lead officer and lead member for corporate safeguarding to strengthen corporate leadership and accountability.	Regular press releases to staff and Councillors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comms released on Cllr Church, Nina Davies safeguarding roles. 	Ongoing	Nina Davies
		Safeguarding landing pages on both PCC Intranet and Internet.	March 2023	
		Communications planned for launch of web pages.	March 2023	
		Corporate Safeguarding Policy includes roles and responsibilities. One page summary created.	Approved December 2022	
R5	The Council should review the need for having two Disclosure and Barring Service	Review the need for having two DBS policies.	Completed January 2023	Paul Bradshaw

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	<p>policies. If it decides to keep the two policies, it should be clear as to the rationale why, and also clear on the following matters, so as to avoid confusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - who the policies apply to; - ensure they are reviewed at the same time; - are consistent with each other; and - that anyone using the policies is sighted that they are both current and up to date. 	<p>Update: Review has been completed and PCC now has one agreed DBS policy in place.</p>		
R6	<p>The Council should produce central guidance on the recruitment of volunteers to help to ensure consistency across the Council.</p>	<p>Produce an approved Corporate Volunteering Policy to provide clear guidance for all council services.</p>	<p>May 2023</p>	<p>Paul Bradshaw</p>
R7	<p>The Council should gather contractual monitoring information from across all Council Directorates to ensure they are all robustly monitoring and quickly addressing safeguarding related actions.</p>	<p>New contract management framework</p> <p>Update: A new contract management approach is being developed to set out how the council manages its contracts with regard to contract performance, including ensuring safeguarding practices and controls are in place.</p>	<p>May 2023</p>	<p>Wayne Welsby</p>
R8	<p>The Council should accelerate the rate of compliance with the completion of mandatory safeguarding training for staff and members so that ‘all members and staff fulfil their roles and responsibilities in helping to keep people safe from harm and abuse’.</p>	<p>Mandatory compliance with safeguarding training to be permanent item agenda on Corporate Safeguarding Board.</p> <p>Updates provided to Cabinet and Scrutiny and Senior Leadership Team.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Senior Leadership Team</p>

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		<p>(Scrutiny on 27th Jan 2023 requested CSG look at engaging with staff who do not have laptops to improve the % of staff who have been trained, also to seek ways of improving the public understanding of safeguarding.)</p> <p>Reports to Group Leaders on Cllr compliance (currently at 98%).</p>		
R9	The Council needs to clarify its expectations of contractors in respect of safeguarding training because there are currently discrepancies in the Council's approach.	<p>Ensure safeguarding is in accordance with CWMPAS Safeguarding guidelines.</p> <p>Providers expected to provide safeguarding training to employees in accordance with CWMPAS guidelines. The Council will be reconfirming this expectation and monitored through new contract management framework approach.</p>	April 2023	Wayne Welsby and Rachel Evans
R10	The Council should improve the quality of corporate safeguarding performance information that goes to Cabinet and scrutiny to facilitate improved oversight of corporate safeguarding.	<p>CSG to provide reports to Cabinet and Scrutiny after every meeting. Feedback on reports and future work areas sought.</p> <p>Annual self-evaluation for all services.</p> <p>Annual report on safeguarding.</p> <p>Consider creation of safeguarding data dashboard.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>June 2023</p> <p>September 2023</p> <p>September 2023</p>	Nina Davies

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R11	The Council should assure itself that all directorates are fully considering safeguarding risks, have suitable escalation and mitigation processes where necessary, and, where appropriate, ensure directorate risk registers reflect that consideration.	<p>Implement annual self-evaluation toolkit to be completed by all services. To be incorporated within wider corporate self-evaluation process.</p> <p>Safeguarding to be considered on service Risk Registers as appropriate. Consider as part of quarterly review process.</p> <p>Recommendations from WAO Safeguarding Follow up report to be added to Corporate Regulatory Tracker and reviewed at quarter reviews.</p>	<p>Q1 2023</p> <p>Quarterly</p> <p>Feb 2023</p>	Senior Leadership Team