

**Powys County Council
Scrutiny Report**

Committee:	Health and Care Scrutiny
Date:	20 th September 2024
Subject:	Corporate Safeguarding Board Activity Report regarding 9 th July 2024 meeting

1. Who will be the Lead Officer(s) / Lead Cabinet Member(s) presenting the report?

Name:	Role:
Nina Davies	Director of Social Services and Wellbeing
Councillor Church	Portfolio Holder for a Safer Powys

2. Why is the Scrutiny Committee being asked to consider the subject?

To scrutinise the way the Corporate Safeguarding Board monitors safeguarding across the whole Council, and progress against the Action Plan.

3. Role of the Committee:

The role of the Committee in considering the subject is to:

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

4. Key Scrutiny Questions:

What Key areas should the Committee focus on:

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

5. Guiding Principles for Scrutiny Members:

To assist the Committee when scrutinising the topic:

- 5.1 Impact the matter has on individuals and communities :
- 5.2 A look at the efficiency & effectiveness of any proposed change – both financially and in terms of quality
[focus on value]
- 5.3 A look at any risks
[focus on risk]
- 5.4 Looking at plans and proposals from a perspective of:
 - Long term
 - Prevention
 - Integration
 - Collaboration
 - Involvement

[focus on wellbeing and future generations]
- 5.5 The potential impacts the decision would have on:
 - protected groups under the Equality Act 2010

- those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage in their lives (when making strategic decisions)
- opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language [focus on equality and the Welsh language]

[focus on equality and Welsh Language]

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			

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

For Cabinet 17th September 2024

For Health and Care Scrutiny Information 20th September 2024

For Governance and Audit Information 27th September 2024

REPORT AUTHOR: Nina Davies, Director of Social Services and Wellbeing

SUBJECT: Corporate Safeguarding Board Activity Report

REPORT FOR: Information

1. Introduction

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

1.2 The Corporate Safeguarding Board met on 9th July 2024; this report summarises the information provided at that meeting.

2. Agenda discussions

2.1 Review of Progress against actions in the Safeguarding Regulatory Tracker

Item 96, 97 & 99 within the tracker being from the December 2022 review from Audit Wales.

2024/25	Q1	96	19 December 2022	Follow-up Review of Arrangements for Corporate Safeguarding - Powys County Council	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.	Adult Social Care	31 August 2023	On Track	Compliance with mandatory safeguarding is currently at 95.1% - excellent.	Compliance with mandatory training is monitored at every CSG meeting, but is also monitored through regular performance management. There is oversight within services, at quarterly performance reviews, and CLT.	Continuous to have compliance with mandatory training as standing item on agenda for performance meetings. Escalate and act if compliance dips. Continue oversight at CSG.	Closed	<input type="radio"/> No
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Referenced item

96, noted as on track and compliance with mandatory safeguarding being at 95.1% for staff. Member compliance was also noted as excellent.

It was noted that mandatory training has now become an embedded item within many meetings across services and proposed to the Board this item be marked as completed and closed.

Consensus of Board was to agree and mark Item 96 as complete on the Regulatory Tracker.

It was noted that since the tracker was updated, compliance rate had improved further to 95.2%, an increase of 0.01% in a week.

2024/25	Q1	97	19 December 2022	Follow-up Review of Arrangements for Corporate Safeguarding - Powys County Council	The Council needs to clarify its expectations of contractors in respect of safeguarding training because there are currently discrepancies in the Council's approach.	Adult Social Care	30 April 2023	Completed	The Council's Procurement and Contracts website has been updated to include details on Safeguarding Training expectations for suppliers. These updates have been promoted through a press release issued by the Council on 19th April 24 and also highlighted in Tendering Instructions issued in Council Invitation to Tender documentation.			Closed	<input type="radio"/> No
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Reference item

97, It was proposed this item be completed and closed and it was confirmed that the item is fully

completed in regard to the expectations. No comments were raised, and it was agreed to complete and close this item.

2024/25	Q1	99	19 December 2022	Follow-up Review of Arrangements for Corporate Safeguarding - Powys County Council	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.	Adult Social Care	31 March 2023	On Track	For 2 years, safeguarding has been embedded within annual self-evaluation. All services undertake a self evaluation, and consider risk. Services escalate via senior staff to CLT, where it is a weekly standing agenda item. Risk registers are reviewed at least quarterly and discussed at performance reviews, with Senior Leadership Team, Corporate Leadership Team and Cabinet.	Embedding safeguarding as an integral part of the annual self-evaluation gives it appropriate weight and consideration across the council. It is not a separate stand-alone item, safeguarding is something that all services have a responsibility towards. In this way appropriate oversight will be sustained.	Regular monitoring at CSG, CSG to consider annual self-evaluation safeguarding report and analysis.	Open	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
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Reference item

99, It was proposed this item be kept open and reviewed at the September CSG Board meeting, the Board agreed.

2.2 Regional Safeguarding Board Update

It was noted that Ceredigion are hosting this year's conference with the overall theme being 'right place, right time'. The conference is due to take place on Thursday 14th November.

It was agreed Child Practice Reviews (CPRs) and Adult Practice Reviews (APRs) summaries would be brought to future meetings and an agenda item added for 'summary of learning'.

It was noted to the Board the positives of the national safeguarding week looking at SARs (subject access requests) and information sharing protocols, it was highlighted that if lessons can be learned from other authorities in these areas, Powys will be in a better position to offer a better service to the residents.

2.3 Safeguarding in Housing, Including Young People (16/17-Year-Old) Housing

Powys County Council's use of bed & breakfast (B&B) and the attempt to minimise the amount of time spent within these and temporary accommodations in line with the rapid rehousing approach was discussed. It was noted that at the end of October 2023 there were 46 households placed in B&Bs and at the end of June 2024 this had reduced to 12, a 74% reduction of B&B use and a £20,000.00 saving per week on B&Bs.

It was noted that zero tolerance must be stressed around the 16/17-year-olds being placed in B&Bs etc. It was confirmed that this is the goal.

Assurance was requested, that if a 16/17-year-old is in education and must be placed into temporary accommodation, that this will not affect their learning. It was confirmed that wherever possible the wider needs of the household are taken into consideration and the best will be done to keep them local to cause minimal disruption to learning.

2.4 Mandatory Safeguarding Training, Including VAWDASV

It was noted to the Board, that as at the 9th July 2024, Safeguarding Compliance stood at 95.2%, *below tables hold data from a date prior to meeting.*

VAWDASV TRAINING	Compliance
Corporate	Level 1 Awareness
Education	88.8%
Social Services and Wellbeing	88.8%
Corporate Services	95.3%
Economy Development and Growth	88.8%
Members	97 %
TOTAL	93.5%

Safeguarding	Corporate Compliance = 92.7%
Adults	84.8%
Children's	93.1%
Community Wellbeing	94.5%
Social Services and Wellbeing	88.9%
Economic Development and Growth	83.3%
Economy and Climate	96.2%
Place	83.6%
Education	95.6%
Business Intelligence and Governance	98.2%
Corporate Services	100 %
Digital	97.2%
Finance	97.3%
People	97.6%
Members	100%

It was noted schools' compliance rate had dropped, it was confirmed that a push for the completion of the mandatory training was ongoing, and networks had been set up for governors that have safeguarding responsibilities to ensure compliance is noted and achieved.

It was noted that Powys currently sit second in terms of completion of the 'ask and act' training. It was confirmed that Ceredigion has released an e-learning module, which had aided them to significantly improve their compliance. It was also noted that a review has been undertaken of this module and confirmed it is solely focused on children, no mention of adults, therefore it is felt it would be not appropriate to meet requirements.

2.5 Adult Social Care Safeguarding Performance, including Deprivation of liberty Safeguarding Update

It was noted that five rapid response meetings had taken place within one week prior to this meeting and that support has been a top priority for staff members included in those meetings.

It was noted that there was a delay in receiving DBS checks/certificates from Dyfed Powys Police. Each quarter an update is provided from the DBS nationally about performance criteria, delays were noted nationally and potentially expected to continue. It was confirmed that previously Cllr JB had followed up with the local Police commissioner, the CEO had a meeting with the Chief Constable and PB had chased behind the scenes and there was an improvement, from 50 waiting to 25. It was confirmed as of 9th July there were 45 DBS checks outstanding. Powys County Council are an umbrella organisation undertaking DBS checks for other employers across the UK, including those employers there was more than 200 outstanding DBS checks.

2.6 Children's Safeguarding Performance

Report provided to Board; no queries/concerns raised.

2.7 Programme the Spotlight on Safeguarding

Run-through of report was presented to attendees. The Board were assured that the updates are included in many newsletters/out-reach attempts.

2.8 Annual Private Fostering Report

It was confirmed to the Board that Private Fostering is 'when a child under the age of 16 is living with someone, who isn't a close relative, for more than 28 days.' The report provided provides information on these arrangements over the previous 12 months.

It was confirmed that information sharing with PTHB was ongoing, and that PTHB recognise that they may not be as up to date as they should be in relation to where a child attends school etc. In addition, the Children Missing Education (CME) pilot that Powys County Council are undertaking

with Welsh Government has suggested an annual exchange of information between health boards and local authorities.

It was suggested the above report be shared with Governors, who meet regularly. It was confirmed that the above report can be added to the Governors newsletter.

2.9 JICPA

It was confirmed to the board that the JICPA Action Plan was being monitored by PLOG and a 6-monthly update against the action plan will be provided for future meetings.

2.10 Safeguarding in Education, including Elective Home Education and Fixed Term Exclusions

It was noted that comparative data will be provided in future meetings, at the point of this Board meeting the data would have included pandemic information, which would not be a good comparison.

It was queried if the 'poor behaviour' exclusions are being reviewed if a child receives a medical diagnosis, ADHD, ALN etc. It was confirmed that this is being worked on and support is being provided to Schools around ALN.

3. Future Corporate Safeguarding Board Meetings

3.1 Future meetings are scheduled for 12th September 2024 and 12th December 2024.

4. Recommendation

Cabinet receives this briefing as an update from the Chair of the Corporate Safeguarding Board, to ensure Cabinet are fully sighted on the work to date.

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