

**Powys County Council  
Scrutiny Report**

<b>Committee:</b>	Health and Care Scrutiny
<b>Date:</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	Corporate Safeguarding Board Activity Report regarding 12 <sup>th</sup> September 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 29<sup>th</sup> October 2024

For Health and Care Scrutiny Information 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024

For Governance and Audit Information 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024

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

**SUBJECT:** Corporate Safeguarding Board Activity Report

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**REPORT FOR:** Information

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## 1. Introduction

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

1.2 The Corporate Safeguarding Board met on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024; this report summarises the information provided at that meeting.

## 2. Agenda discussions

### 1. Review of Progress against actions in the Safeguarding Regulatory Tracker

The Regulatory Tracker was shared on screen for all attendees. It was noted that PCC has turned a page in relation to safeguarding and ensuring it is embedded throughout the authority and this will continue to be monitored at the Corporate Safeguarding Board (CSB).

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	<b>On Track</b>	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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### 2. Director of Social Services Annual Report

ND highlighted the use of AI for translating the report, significantly reducing costs, and showcasing an innovative approach to leveraging technology. There were concerns about the report's length and the challenge of ensuring it is read comprehensively. This will be taken into account for next year's report, with the report being re-formatted into Adult and Children's Social Services sections to make it easier to read.

### 2.3 Review Terms of Reference.

The discussion around the Terms of Reference focused on reviewing and updating them to ensure they accurately reflect the board's purpose and activities. Various suggestions were made to improve the document, including ensuring that safeguarding issues are actively addressed, and any emerging thematic issues are noted – draft amended version will be taken to CSB in December for approval.

### 3. Regional Safeguarding Board & PLOG Updates

An update was provided on the implementation and outcomes of the Child Exploitation Strategy in Powys. The strategy includes community practice sessions, outreach events, and the development of an Ambassador Programme focusing on consent, healthy relationships, and exploitation.

### 4. Safeguarding in Housing

This update focused on care leavers and homeless presentations in Powys, highlighting efforts to provide housing and reduce the use of bed and breakfast accommodations. A significant reduction in bed and breakfast use was reported, from 46 households in October 2023 to 26 households as of the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024, indicating ongoing efforts to provide housing for care leavers and young people facing homelessness.

### 5. Safeguarding in Education.

An update was provided on safeguarding in education, including elective home education and fixed-term exclusions. The discussion underscored the importance of safeguarding learners during exclusions and ensuring that exclusions are not a consequence of safeguarding issues at home.

### 6. CE Strategy and Implementation Plan

The Child Exploitation Strategy and Implementation Plan outlines Powys County Council's comprehensive approach to addressing child exploitation through a structured framework divided into three key areas: prevent, protect, and support. This strategic approach is designed to adapt to the evolving landscape of child exploitation, ensuring that Powys County Council and its partners are equipped to effectively prevent, protect, and support those at risk or affected by exploitation

### 7. Summary of Learning from CPR and APR

The Practice Review Summary, highlights critical incidents and learning outcomes from various reviews across the region. These reviews cover issues such as child exploitation, sexual abuse, and the tragic death of a child, emphasising the importance of multi-agency collaboration, early intervention, and a child-first approach in safeguarding practices.

## 3. **Future Corporate Safeguarding Board Meetings**

3.1 Future meetings are scheduled for 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024 and 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

## 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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