

## Report of the Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 11 September 2017

### ANNUAL CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING REPORT 2016/17

<b>Purpose</b>	To present an overview of the work of the Corporate Safeguarding Steering Group by providing the Annual Report for the period 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017
<b>Content</b>	This report includes the Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report and Action Plan
<b>Councillors are being asked to</b>	Endorse the actions being taken by the Corporate Safeguarding Group in response to the Welsh Audit Office review of Local Authority arrangements to Support the Safeguarding of Children
<b>Lead Councillor(s)</b>	Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing, Councillor Mark Child
<b>Lead Officer(s)</b>	Dave Howes, Chief Social Services Officer
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#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Safeguarding is one of the Council's main five priorities and in response to the Welsh Audit Office review of Local Authority arrangements to Support the Safeguarding of Children a Corporate Safeguarding Steering Group was set up in April 2014.
- 1.2 The Group has looked at the findings of the WAO review and the five proposals for improvement and these have formed the core work of the Group. The membership of the Group is drawn from all departments from across the Council.
- 1.3 The attached report, Corporate Safeguarding Group Action Plan (**Appendix 1**) provides an update on the work undertaken to date and the key actions to be completed during 2017/18 by the Corporate Safeguarding Steering Group.

#### 2. Reporting

- 2.1 Reporting the Annual Report to Scrutiny will provide Members with an overview of the progress to date of the work of the Corporate Safeguarding Group.

2.2 During the year a summary of the following were achieved:

- Satisfactory progress of the five proposals for improvement as a result of the Welsh Audit Office (WAO) Safeguarding Audit Report in 2014 - All proposals show part / full completion.
- A review of the Policy document for Safeguarding commenced in the year and this will be finalised during 2017/18.
- A guidance document was produced for contractors engaged construction work; maintenance or emergency repairs in schools.
- Training numbers for staff and Members continues to improve but not at the desired rate despite regular campaigns, newsletters and reminders.
- Providing training on Child Sexual Exploitation, additional lunch time sessions for Safeguard Leads and external training with taxi drivers all contributed towards improving individuals awareness of safeguarding.
- Through the communication plan there was greater awareness of safeguarding amongst staff, Members, Volunteers, partners and the public. This was done via briefing notes, newsletters, team briefings, posters and drop in sessions
- A Safeguarding conference took place at the Liberty Stadium in November 2016 as part of the Western Bay Safeguarding Board's collaboration between Swansea, Neath Port Talbot and Bridgend Councils and ABMU health board in which over 300 persons attended the day conference.
- During National Safeguarding week the authority engaged staff and the public via twitter, press releases and Facebook giving more people access and viability to social media in a positive way

2.3 The future workplan for 2017/18 includes the following:

- All new elected Members to undertake Safeguarding training during 2017/18.
- An Authority safeguarding event to be staged during 2017/18 in conjunction with Western Bay
- The revised Corporate Operational Safeguarding Policy to be adopted and placed on the intranet site for all employees to view.

- Review the safeguarding training programme to ensure that it includes domestic abuse, Designated Lead Manager (DLM) Meetings, anti-slavery and child sexual exploitation.
- Departments to continue to promote and devolve key messages on safeguarding, monitor the training compliance of employees, both new and existing and to address the issues raised as a result of the employee's annual staff survey.

### **3. Legal Implications**

3.1 There are no specific legal implications raised by this report.

### **4. Financial Implications**

4.1 There are no specific financial implications raised by this report.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Corporate Safeguarding Steering Group Annual Report 2016/17  
and Action Plan

Background Papers: None

Legal Officer: Debbie Smith  
Finance Officer: Paul Cridland