

## CABINET

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| <b>Date of Meeting</b> | Tuesday, 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2019                              |
| <b>Report Subject</b>  | Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report                                 |
| <b>Cabinet Member</b>  | Cabinet Member for Social Services<br>Cabinet Member for Education   |
| <b>Report Author</b>   | Chief Officer (Social Services)<br>Chief Officer (Education & Youth) |
| <b>Type of Report</b>  | Operational  |

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Safeguarding is everybody's business in every service within the Council. Whilst Social Services is the lead Service within the Council for dealing with enquiries regarding allegations / concerns that children and adults may be suffering significant harm, everyone, whatever their role, has a responsibility to safeguard the well-being of children, young people and adults.

The Wales Audit Office (WAO) published a report in July 2015: 'Review of Corporate Safeguarding Arrangements in Welsh Councils. The WAO found that many of the corporate safeguarding responsibilities within local authorities across Wales were underdeveloped and not well understood. The Corporate Safeguarding Panel was established in response to this report.

The purpose of this report is to set out the work being undertaken to ensure that the Council fulfils its safeguarding responsibilities and present the Annual Corporate Safeguarding report for approval before publication. The Corporate Safeguarding Panel Annual Report 2018 is attached as Appendix 1.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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| 1 | Cabinet is assured that work is being undertaken to improve corporate arrangements for safeguarding children and adults. |
| 2 | Cabinet approve the Corporate Safeguarding Annual Report 2018 prior to publication.                                      |

## REPORT DETAILS

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| <b>1.00</b> | <b>EXPLAINING THE CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING PANEL ANNUAL REPORT</b>  |
| 1.01        | Safeguarding is the responsibility of all services across the Council, not just those that work directly with children and vulnerable people. The Council's responsibilities for safeguarding is set out in legislation including the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. This Act was implemented in April 2016 and created a duty on all local authority employees, elected members and relevant partners to report any actual or suspected incidents of abuse or harm.  |
| 1.02        | In 2015, the WAO examined the corporate assurance arrangements within councils and the extent to which they are operating, effective management and assurance processes and controls for safeguarding children. The WAO found that many of the corporate safeguarding responsibilities within local authorities across Wales were underdeveloped and not well understood.   |
| 1.03        | A Corporate Safeguarding Panel was established in December 2015 to ensure that there are robust arrangements for protecting children, young people and adults. The Panel will ensure that the Council fulfils its safeguarding duties corporately and in partnership with other statutory agencies. It is jointly chaired by the Chief Officer, (Social Services) and Chief Officer (Education and Youth) and comprises designated Safeguarding Leads from every Portfolio. The Cabinet Member, Social Services and Cabinet Member, Corporate Management are also members of this Panel.  |
| 1.04        | <p>The Corporate Safeguarding Panel Annual Report 2018 sets out progress that has been made to ensure there are robust corporate safeguarding arrangements in place. The report identifies action that has been undertaken to date including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• provision of drama style safeguarding training available for both employees and elected members;</li><li>• publication of a regular Safeguarding Bulletin to increase employee awareness of safeguarding issues;</li><li>• incorporating safeguarding clauses within contractor terms and conditions for passenger transport services and requiring drivers to attend safeguarding training;</li><li>• signing up to the Welsh Government's Code of Practice: Ethical Employment in supply chains. This commits the Council to a set of actions to tackle illegal and unfair employment;</li><li>• identifying corporate safeguarding as a priority in the Council Plan 2018/19;</li><li>• completion of an audit, by Internal Audit, of the role of the Corporate Safeguarding Panel in raising awareness across the Council as a whole.</li></ul> |
| 1.05        | The recommendations identified by the Internal Audit report are reported to the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee who monitor progress to completing necessary actions.   |

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| 1.06 | The report also identifies good news stories including how concerns raised by a Council sub-contractor regarding the safety of a child resulted in Social Services intervention. The child is now living in foster care and the parents are being supported and engaging with services. This shows the importance of all employees and contractors reporting concerns, ensuring appropriate investigations and actions are taken.   |
| 1.07 | The key actions to be completed during 2019 by the Corporate Safeguarding Panel are set out in the annual report and include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to deliver safeguarding training across the Council to ensure all employees receive training, including development of an e-learning module.</li> <li>• Raise public awareness of safeguarding, including modern slavery, to ensure people recognise the signs and encourage increased reporting.</li> <li>• Ensure contractors understand the importance of safeguarding and safeguarding is embedded within contracts.</li> <li>• Ensure the Council and Corporate Safeguarding Panel is represented at key events, such as the Regional Safeguarding Conference.</li> <li>• Continue raising awareness of exploitation which was the theme of national Safeguarding Week 2018.</li> <li>• Participate in national Safeguarding Week 2019.</li> </ul> |
| 1.08 | A “Tackling Modern Slavery” e-learning module and a Safeguarding e-learning module are now available on Flintshire Academi Learning Pool. All employees will be encouraged to complete this modules to increase their awareness.  |

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| <b>2.00</b> | <b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>   |
| 2.01        | There are financial implications for rolling out a training programme to ensure employees have the skills and knowledge for the Council to identify potential safeguarding issues and know how to make a referral.<br><br>All portfolios have made a financial contribution to a corporate budget for safeguarding training. |

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| <b>3.00</b> | <b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>                             |
| 3.01        | Relevant services have contributed to the content of the annual report. |

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| <b>4.00</b> | <b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>   |
| 4.01        | The work programme of the Corporate Safeguarding Panel supports the Council to meet its statutory obligations in the safeguarding of all children, young people and adults. Not having appropriate, clear policies and |

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|  | procedures in place, and lack of awareness and knowledge of safeguarding within the organisation, could put children, young people and adults at risk. |
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| <b>5.00</b> | <b>APPENDICES</b> |
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| 5.01 | Corporate Safeguarding Panel Annual Report 2018. |
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| <b>6.00</b> | <b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b> |
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| 6.01 | <p><a href="#">Review of Corporate Safeguarding Arrangements in Welsh Councils - Wales Audit Office 2015</a></p> <p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Fiona Mocko Strategic Policy Advisor<br/> <b>Telephone:</b> 702122<br/> <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:fiona.mocko@flintshire.gov.uk">fiona.mocko@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p> |
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| <b>7.00</b> | <b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b> |
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| 7.01 | <b>Safeguarding:</b> is about protecting children and adults from abuse or neglect and educating those around them to recognise the signs and dangers. |
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