

# Public Document Pack

## Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

### Bridgend County Borough Council



Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont, CF31 4WB / Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

*Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg.  
Rhowch wybod i ni os mai Cymraeg yw eich  
dewis iaith.*

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let us know if your language choice is Welsh.*



Annwyl Cyngorydd,

### **PWYLLGOR CRAFFU TESTUN 2**

Cynhelir Cyfarfod Pwyllgor Craffu Testun 2 yn Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, CF31 4WB, ar **Dydd Mercher, 3 Gorffennaf 2019** am **09:30**.

### **AGENDA**

1. Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb  
Derbyn ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb gan Aelodau.
2. Datganiadau o fuddiant  
Derbyn datganiadau o ddiddordeb personol a rhagfarnol (os o gwbl) gan Aelodau / Swyddogion yn unol â darpariaethau'r Cod Ymddygiad Aelodau a fabwysiadwyd gan y Cyngor o 1 Medi 2008.
3. Diogelu 3 - 44

#### **Gwahoddedigion:**

Susan Cooper - Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol - Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles  
Cllr Phil White, Aelod Cabinet - Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Chymorth Cynnar  
Jacqueline Davies, Pennaeth Gofal Cymdeithasol i Oedolion;  
Laura Kinsey, Pennaeth Gofal Cymdeithasol i Blant;  
Martin Morgans, Pennaeth Gwasanaeth - Perfformiad a Gwasanaethau Partneriaeth,  
Elizabeth Walton James, Rheolwr Grwp, Diogelu  
Terri Warrilow, Rheolwr Ansawdd a Diogelu Oedolion;  
DCI Richie Weber, Heddlu De Cymru  
Louise Mann, Pennaeth Diogelu a Gwarchod y Cyhoedd, Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Cwm Taf  
Katie Davies, Rheolwr Gwasanaeth Ardal Pen-Y-Bont - Calan DVS

4. Diweddariad Rhaglen Gwaith 45 - 54
5. Materion Brys

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I ystyried unrhyw eitemau o fusnes y, oherwydd amgylchiadau arbennig y cadeirydd o'r farn y dylid eu hystyried yn y cyfarfod fel mater o frys yn unol â Rhan 4 (pharagraff 4) o'r Rheolau Trefn y Cyngor yn y Cyfansoddiad.

Yn ddiffuant

**K Watson**

Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Rheoleiddiol

**Dosbarthiad:**

Cynghowrwy

S Aspey  
MC Clarke  
PA Davies  
SK Dendy  
J Gebbie  
CA Green

Cynghorwyr

A Hussain  
M Jones  
MJ Kearn  
JE Lewis  
AA Pucella  
KL Rowlands

Cynghorwyr

SG Smith  
G Thomas  
T Thomas  
DBF White

## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2

3 JULY 2019

### REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING

#### SAFEGUARDING

#### 1. Purpose

1.1 The Purpose of the report is to update the Committee with information on:

- Safeguarding (Adults & Children);
- Regional Safeguarding Boards;
- Bridgend Corporate Safeguarding Policy;
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE);
- Deprivation of Liberty Standards (DOLS);
- Domestic Abuse;
- Human Trafficking & Anti-Slavery;
- Children and Adult Practice Reviews

#### 2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities

2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate priority/priorities:-

- Helping people to be more self-reliant – taking early steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services.
- Smarter use of resources – ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's priorities.

#### 3. Background

3.1 Safeguarding means protecting people's health, wellbeing and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect.

3.2 Safeguarding adults includes:

- Protecting their rights to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect;
- People and organisations working together to prevent the risk of abuse or neglect, and to stop them from happening;

- Making sure people's wellbeing is promoted, taking their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs into account.
- 3.3 Safeguarding children and promoting their welfare includes:
- Protecting them from maltreatment or things that are bad for their health or development;
  - Making sure they grow up in circumstances that allow safe and effective care.
- 3.4 Effective safeguarding arrangements should be underpinned by two key principles:
- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility: for services to be effective each professional and organisation should play their full part; and
  - A person-centred approach: for services to be effective they should be based on a clear understanding of the needs and views of adults and children.
- 3.5 The key pieces of legislation relating to safeguarding children and adults at risk are the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and the Children Act 1989.
- 3.6 Part 7 of the Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act relates to Safeguarding and includes:
- Definitions of an 'adult and child at risk';
  - A duty on relevant partners to report adults and children at risk;
  - A requirement on a local authority to investigate where they suspect that an adult with care and support needs is at risk of abuse or neglect;
  - The introduction of an Adult Protection and Support Order (APSO);
  - The requirement on the local authority to consider undertaking an investigation when there has been a report that a child is at risk and then carry this out in line with Section 47 of the Children Act 1989;
  - The establishment of a National Safeguarding Board;
  - The functions and procedures of Safeguarding Adults and Safeguarding Children Boards.
- 3.7 Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 sets out the duty on a Local Authority, with the help of other organisations as appropriate to make enquires if they have reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering harm, to enable them to decide whether they should take any action to safeguard and promote the child's welfare.

#### **4. Current situation/Proposal**

##### **Safeguarding Adults**

- 4.1 Safeguarding is everyone's business and practitioners in all agencies need to recognise and act when they identify adults at risk. The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 was enacted in April 2016. Section 7 refers to safeguarding and created new legislation for adult safeguarding. It now

provides the legal framework for improving the well-being of people who need care and support, and carers who need support, and for transforming social services in Wales.

4.2 The main categories of abuse which are identified within existing procedures and within the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act are:

- physical, sexual, psychological, emotional or financial abuse (and includes abuse taking place in any setting, whether in a private dwelling, an institution or any other place), “financial abuse” which includes:
  - having money or other property stolen;
  - being defrauded;
  - being put under pressure in relation to money or other property;
  - having money or other property misused; and
  - “neglect” which means a failure to meet a person’s basic physical, emotional, social or psychological needs, which is likely to result in an impairment of the person’s well-being (for example, an impairment of the person’s health).

4.3 Table 1 below shows comparative figures for 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 since the implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act.

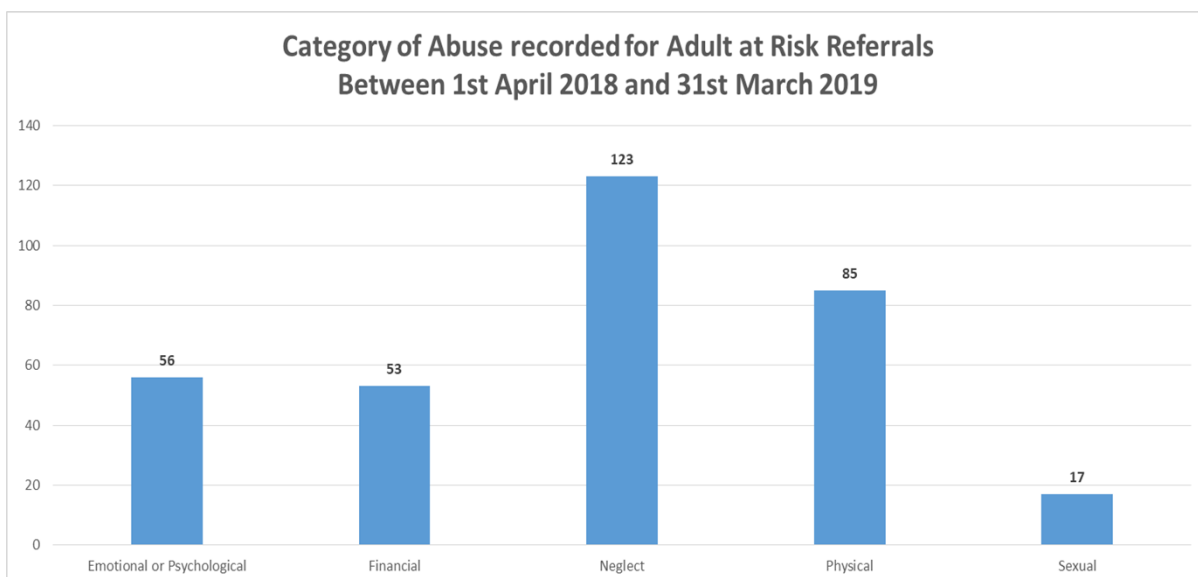
Table 1

<b>Years 1 April – 31 March</b>	<b>Number of Safeguarding Referrals</b>	<b>Met threshold for Adult Protection Procedures</b>
<b>2016/2017</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>2017/2018</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>2018/2019</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>55</b>

4.4 The highest recorded category of abuse in 2018/2019 was neglect which accounted for 36.83% of the total recorded alleged abuse referrals, followed by physical abuse (25.45%), emotional/psychological abuse (16.77%), financial abuse (15.87%) and sexual abuse (5.09%). 53 referrals were for domestic abuse.

Table 2 below shows the category of abuse recorded for Adult at Risk referrals between April 2018 to March 2019

Table 2



- 4.5 The Adult Safeguarding team joined Bridgend's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in July 2018 further enhancing positive working relationships with police officers in the Public Protection Unit (PPU). The co-location of the team in the MASH has allowed for instant information sharing between agencies which in turn results in a more timely, focused, response to safeguarding concerns. The Adult Safeguarding team manager is also a representative on the MASH Quality Assurance Group chaired by the Group Manager for Safeguarding and the IAA service.

### **Deprivation of Liberty (DoL)**

- 4.6 The Mental Capacity Act 2005 provides a statutory framework for acting and making decisions on behalf of individuals who lack mental capacity to do so for themselves. People can be deprived of their liberty wherever they live, but in broad terms this is divided between a Care Home / Hospital setting and a Community setting.
- 4.7 In 2007, the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) was introduced to provide a legal framework to prevent breaches of the European Convention on Human Rights following the 'Bournewood' judgement. This allows for the Local Authority, acting as a Supervisory Body, to authorise a DoL in a Care Home setting when certain qualifying requirements are met. (If the Person is in a Hospital the Health Board are the Supervisory Body and can authorize a DoLS if the qualifying requirements are met). The most fundamental qualifying requirement is that the Care Plan is in the Person's (P's) Best Interests.
- 4.8 On the 19 March 2014, the Supreme Court handed down its judgement in the case of "P v Cheshire West & Cheshire Council". The Supreme Court has now confirmed that to determine whether a person is objectively deprived of their liberty there are two key questions to ask, which is described as the 'acid test':

a) Is the person subject to **continuous supervision** and **control** (all three aspects are necessary)

**AND**

b) Is the **person free to leave** (The person may not be saying this or acting on it but the issue is about how staff would react if the person did try to leave).

**This now means that if a person is subject both to continuous supervision and control and not free to leave they are deprived of their liberty.**

- 4.9 Where the person resides somewhere other than a Care Home or Hospital the DoLS are not applicable and the Court of Protection (CoP) are needed to authorise a DoL. In these circumstances the Local Authority will make an application to the CoP and the type of application is determined on the level of agreement. If all those involved in P's care agree the application can be made using a streamline procedure on a COPDOL11 form and there is no court hearing. If there are disagreements as to P's care then the application must be made on a COP1B and an attended Court hearing will be required.
- 4.10 Due to the 2014 judgement the number of DoLS referrals continues to increase and has risen to 545 in 2018/19 compared to 415 in 2017/18. Independent Best Interest Assessors are being used at present to manage the increase in referrals.
- 4.11 In addition to funding received from Welsh Government in previous years, there will be an additional £329,000 funding made available across Wales from Welsh Government on a three year basis from 2018/19. This has been allocated using the current over 65s population in each Local Health Board and Local Authority area, and Bridgend receives a grant from Welsh Government equating to £11,803 each year for three years. This is a contribution towards meeting the statutory responsibility.
- 4.12 The data below shows the numbers of DoLS referrals received in Bridgend by financial year.

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>NUMBER OF DoLS REFERRALS RECEIVED</b>
<b>2013/2014</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>2014/2015</b>	<b>325</b>
<b>2015/2016</b>	<b>443</b>
<b>2016/2017</b>	<b>416</b>
<b>2017/2018</b>	<b>415</b>
<b>2018/2019</b>	<b>545</b>
<b>2019/2020 to 31/05/2019</b>	<b>105</b>

There are currently no DoLS referrals waiting to be allocated.

### **Children Deprived of their Liberty**

- 4.13 Bridgend has recognised that children can also be deprived of their liberty. In February 2017 Bridgend was the first Local Authority in Wales to successfully make an application to lawfully authorise a child to be placed within a residential setting with restrictions that amounted to a deprivation of liberty. Children who

are subject to a deprivation of their liberty, are under 16, and have parents who are not able to exercise appropriate parental responsibility will require the High court (under its inherent jurisdiction) to authorise any such deprivation. Between the ages of 16-18 years the application for authorisation is made using the same process as adults, notably COP using the COPDOL 11 (if unopposed) and COPDOL 1 B (if contested). The Local Authority is aware of a number of increasing numbers of DoLs applications being made by local authorities for young people who are on the cusp, but as yet do not meet the criteria of being deprived of their liberty, under a secure accommodation order S25 Children's Act 1989 and s119 SSWBA 2014 as a further tool to keep vulnerable children and young people safe.

- 4.14 Since this time Bridgend has a programme of training planned to raise awareness of the legislation, processes and implications for the Local Authority in relation to the lawful discharge of duties where children and young people are thought to require such interventions.
- 4.15 At this time Bridgend have 5 children who fall within this area and who will be subject to annual review before the courts.
- 4.16 Practitioners will receive a bespoke programme of training by a recognized Barrister who specialises in this field to ensure that, as an authority, we are able to recognise when circumstances amount to a child being deprived of their liberty and are well placed to respond in a lawful and proportionate manner.

### **Adult Practice Reviews**

- 4.17 Part 7 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 sets out the provisions for Safeguarding Adults and Children for all partner agencies. Volumes 2 & 3 clearly sets out the statutory guidance which requires Safeguarding Boards to undertake Child Practice Reviews and Adult Practice Reviews as identified. The Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board's Practice Review Management Group has a key role in achieving these functions of learning, reviewing and improving safeguarding practice. The Practice Review Management Group will be the platform from which these reviews will be undertaken on behalf of the Safeguarding Board.

### **Current Adult Practice Reviews**

- 4.18 Bridgend has recently been subject to a Concise Adult Practice Review, the subject of this review taking her own life in 2015 following approximately 10 hours of police negotiation. The subject was a woman in her late 40s. At the time of her death she was receiving mental health care in a local hospital as an informal patient. The review considered the multi-agency response to the circumstances leading to the time of the subject and makes recommendations for learning which will be monitored via the Cwm Taf Adult Practice Review subgroup.
- 4.19 Learning outcomes from this review:-
  - All agencies to be aware of and understand the Welsh Government and Partners Mental Health Concordat.



- All agencies should ensure a robust process is in place to manage the Police Public Protection Notices (PPN's)
- All agencies to improve existing knowledge and understanding of the duty to report adults at risk.

4.20 Following this, review work was undertaken with partner agencies to educate and train front line practitioners in the Mental Health Concordat and “Duty to report” adults and children at risk. Also the PPN process has been reviewed to ascertain if the process could be streamlined to have greater effectiveness. The MASH has assisted in streamlining this process to ensure the timeliness of PPN referrals and effective safeguarding interventions.

4.21 In the past year, 2018/2019 no Adult Practice Reviews have taken place in relation to Bridgend.

### **Safeguarding Children**

4.22 On 31 March 2019, the Child Protection Register comprised the following profile:

Category of abuse	Age Group					Total
	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 15	16 - 18	
Neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse & financial abuse	0	0	0	0	0	0
Neglect, physical abuse and sexual abuse	0	0	0	0	0	0
Neglect, physical abuse and financial abuse	0	0	0	0	0	0
Neglect, sexual abuse and financial abuse	0	0	0	0	0	0
Financial abuse, physical abuse and sexual abuse	0	0	0	0	0	0
Neglect and physical abuse	0	3	5	6	1	15
Neglect and sexual abuse	0	3	3	2	0	8
Neglect and financial abuse	0	0	1	2	0	3
Physical abuse and sexual abuse	0	0	0	0	1	1
Financial abuse and physical abuse	0	0	0	0	0	0
Financial abuse and sexual abuse	0	0	0	0	0	0
Neglect	7	17	20	19	3	66
Physical abuse	1	1	2	1	0	5
Sexual abuse	0	1	4	6	0	11
Financial abuse	0	0	0	0	0	0
Emotional / psychological abuse	11	16	21	29	5	82
Total	19	41	56	65	10	191

4.23 If professionals agree that a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm then their name is placed upon the Child Protection Register. An outline child protection plan is then agreed between all professionals at the conference. In addition to this a core group of professionals is agreed. This core group are then responsible for implementing and monitoring the plan. The initial core group is held within 10 working days of the conference and thereafter on a 6 weekly basis until the review Child Protection Case Conference 3 months later. If the child's name remains on the Child Protection Register, subsequent review conferences are held every 6 months or sooner depending on the level of risk identified.

### **Public Law Outline (PLO)**

- 4.24 The PLO is a legal process which was introduced in April 2014. The PLO sets out streamlined case management procedures for dealing with public law children's cases. The aim is to avoid care proceedings if possible and for those cases where proceedings are necessary, identify and focus on the key issues for the child, with the aim of making the best decisions for the child within the timetable set by the Court (26 weeks), and avoiding the need for unnecessary evidence or hearings. Under the PLO, the 'pre proceedings process' is considered when the above has not been effective with a family and the legal threshold is met i.e. when the child/ren is suffering or is at risk of suffering significant harm. This process is followed when the Local Authority has assessed that the risks are able to be managed safely whilst the children remain in the care of their parents/primary carers. The process allows the parents to obtain legal advice and a legal meeting takes place with the parents and lawyers. In this meeting the Local Authority sets out clearly its concerns, its plan to help the family, and the consequences if no progress is made. The process is set for a realistic period of time for families to engage in the necessary services to ensure that the child/ren's needs are met and they are kept safe from harm.
- 4.25 In the first instance, the family will receive a 'pre proceedings letter' which sets out:
- the Local Authority's concerns;
  - what the Local Authority has done to try to address those concerns;
  - what the family need to do in order to address those concerns;
  - the likely outcome if they fail to do so which involves the Local Authority considering whether the children are able to remain in the family home and whether care proceedings should be issued;
  - informing them of a meeting that they must attend with legal representation.
- 4.26 There are currently 26 children in this process in Bridgend compared to 48 in July 2018. With regard to unborn children where there are plans to enter into this process, there are currently 11 children compared to 8 in July last year.

### **Care Proceedings**

- 4.27 This is a last resort situation for the Local Authority and will only be issued when the Local Authority has attempted to do all it can to work with and support the family but there has been no change and the child/ren are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm should they remain in the care of parents or primary carers. In Bridgend there are currently 26 cases subject of these proceedings compared to 28 in July 2018. The process following the conclusion of care proceedings is dependent upon the care plan proposed by the Local Authority and agreed by the Court at the final hearing.

### **Child Practice Reviews**

- 4.28 In 2013, Child Practice Reviews replaced what were known as Serious Case Reviews (SCRs). This new process stems from the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales report published in October 2009 - *Improving Practice to*

*Protect Children in Wales: An Examination of the Role of Serious Case Reviews.* This work was pivotal to where we are today, and concluded that action was required to replace the SCR process which had become ineffective in improving practice and inter-agency working.

- 4.29 A key element of the new framework is different types of review – known as ‘concise’ and ‘extended’ – depending on the circumstances of the child involved. Child Practice Reviews will be effective learning tools where it is more important to consider how agencies worked together. The formal review processes are underpinned by multi-agency professional forums that are critical to improving practice, and will allow practitioners to reflect on cases – and not only where things have gone wrong – in an informed and supported environment.
- 4.30 The guidance sets out arrangements for multi-agency Child Practice Reviews in circumstances of a significant incident where abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected.
- 4.31 The overall purpose of reform of the review system is to promote a positive culture of multi-agency child protection learning and reviewing in local areas, for which the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board and partner agencies hold responsibility.
- 4.32 In April 2019 Bridgend published its most recent Concise Child Practice Review following the identification of concerns where the above criteria had been met. This review involved a baby who died whilst co-sleeping with its parents.
- 4.33 Like adult reviews, the purpose of the review is to identify learning for future practice and involve practitioners, managers and senior officers in exploring the detail and context of agencies’ work with the child(ren) and family. The review is intended to generate professional and organisational learning and promote improvement in future practice.
- 4.34 The Corporate Parenting Committee received a presentation on the key themes and findings of this review on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2019. Recommendations and actions agreed from this Child Practice Review will be reported to and monitored by both the Western Bay Safeguarding Board who commissioned the review and also the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board which Bridgend is now a member of. The lessons learnt are shared with senior managers and disseminated through learning events and training to Safeguarding practitioners.

### **Regional Safeguarding Boards**

- 4.35 Part 7 regulations of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 set out the need to establish regional Safeguarding Boards for children and adults and specify a lead partner agency for each Board. As from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019, Bridgend became part of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board (for both children and adults) which covers Bridgend, Rhondda Cynon Taff and Merthyr Tydfil localities, with Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

(CBC) as the lead partner agency. The Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board's Annual Plan 2019-20 is attached at **Appendix 1**.

- 4.36 The objectives of the Safeguarding Board is to protect adults and children who are experiencing, or at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm and to prevent them becoming at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm.
- 4.37 Membership of Safeguarding Boards is prescribed within the Act. A Board includes senior representatives from agencies who exercise functions or who are engaged in activities in relation to children and adults. At a minimum a Board must include a representative from:
- Each Local Authority
  - Police
  - Local Health Board
  - NHS Trust
  - Probation services provider(s)
- 4.38 There are three Co-Chairs of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board:
- Director of Social Services and Wellbeing, Bridgend
  - Director of Social Services, RCT
  - Chief Officer for Social Services, Merthyr Tydfil

### **Governance**

- 4.39 The Safeguarding Board has published an outcome focused Annual Plan for 2019/20. There is a committee and sub group structure sitting under the Board to support the delivery of the Annual Plan on behalf of the Board. Each Sub Group uses performance measures to report on a quarterly basis to the Board, via the Joint Operational Committee, and to escalate any risks and issues against the delivery of the plan and for decision and action from the Board. This enables the Board to take ownership of its work at strategic level and to provide leadership to Sub Groups. There is an established business unit based in RCT that supports the Boards in this respect. The team is funded by partner agencies through a Safeguarding Board pooled budget and consists of one Business Manager, two Business Coordinators, a Communications and Engagement Officer and a Business Administrator.
- 4.40 The Terms of Reference for the Safeguarding Board is reviewed bi-annually and this promotes the requirement for accountability in respect of all Board partner agencies. There are clear definitions for professional challenge and holding partners to account. Each Board member is required to sign up to a member Role Profile to which they are individually accountable in relation to their contribution to the Board and attendance at Board meetings. The Joint Operational Committee reports to the Board on the progress of the Sub Groups.
- 4.41 The sub-groups of the Safeguarding Board are:
- Children's Quality Assurance Sub Group
  - Adults Quality Assurance Sub Group
  - Adult Review Group

- Child Review Group
- Protocols and Procedures Group
- Training and Learning Group
- Engagement, Communications and Participation Group

The Terms of Reference, Membership and sub-groups are currently being reviewed as part of the new Regional Safeguarding Board arrangements.

- 4.42 The three priorities areas in the Board's plan for 2019/20 are:
- Safeguard children, young people and adults at risk from the impact of domestic abuse
  - Improve the way in which we communicate, engage and promote participation with our communities and partner agencies
  - Ensure that the transition to the new regional footprint for safeguarding is managed effectively

### **Domestic Abuse**

- 4.43 The Safeguarding Board will deliver this strategic priority in conjunction with the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Groups to achieve the best outcomes possible for victims and their families. The Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 sets out the requirements for an improved collective public sector response to the way these issues are addressed, to support victims and to prevent abuse from happening. There are Steering Groups that sits under the Cwm Taf and Bridgend Community Safety Partnerships to deliver regional strategies for VAWDASV.

### **Improve Communications**

- 4.44 The Safeguarding Board is required to raise awareness with the public of the need to protect and prevent children, young people and adults from becoming at risk of abuse, neglect and other forms of harm, and provide information about how this can be achieved. As part of developing a positive culture of learning the Board also needs to ensure that information is widely disseminated within the workforce to inform them about best practice and learning arising from reviews, audits and other Board activities. The Board has an established Group whose aim is to ensure that there are clear processes in place for the identification of engagement and participation needs and to capture the activities of partner agencies in meeting these needs. To enhance this function, the statutory partner agencies of the Board committed additional resources in 2019 to secure a dedicated post to support this work.

### **National Safeguarding Board**

- 4.45 The National Safeguarding Board is an advisory board that advises Welsh Government on the effectiveness of arrangements to safeguard people in Wales. The Board members have been subject to an open public appointments process and ultimately appointed by the Minister.

- 4.46 One of the National Board's duties is to provide advice and support to regional Safeguarding Boards and each Board member has been assigned to a regional board.

### **Bridgend Operational Safeguarding Group**

- 4.47 The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 makes it clear that safeguarding is a shared responsibility and depends upon effective joint working between agencies and professionals that have different roles and expertise. Bridgend has a Corporate Operational Safeguarding group chaired by the Director of Social Services & Wellbeing, which meets on a quarterly basis. The group's membership consist of representatives from within the Local Authority and partner agencies for example Education, Health, HMP Parc YOI and the third sector.
- 4.48 The Bridgend Operational Safeguarding Group focuses on Bridgend specific matters as well as the regional operational issues which are relevant to Bridgend and receive and review policy and guidance from the regional boards and national enquiries whilst ensuring that there are effective local monitoring arrangements.

### **Bridgend Safeguarding Policy**

- 4.49 Safeguarding is the responsibility of all Directorates across the Authority. With a view to promoting awareness of this and raising the profile of Safeguarding across the whole of the Council, a Corporate Safeguarding Policy has been developed and implemented. This sets out the Council's duty and commitment to safeguard and promote the health, wellbeing and human rights of adults and children at risk and to ensure that effective practices are in place throughout the Council and its commissioned services such that individuals can live their life free from harm, abuse and neglect. This policy has been updated to reflect the changes pertaining to safeguarding as laid out in the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and accompanying statutory guidance.
- 4.50 Previously, each Directorate across the Council had identified individuals known as a Corporate Safeguarding Champions. These individuals would act as conduits for information on safeguarding matters to others within their area of service and to signpost those if they have a safeguarding concern. Following service reconfiguration and staff changes within the Authority the membership of this group was reviewed and it was concluded that a designated safeguarding page on Bridgend's intranet would allow practitioners immediate access to information to support decision making and the referral process if required. It would also signpost individuals to key officers in both adults and children's safeguarding.
- 4.51 The Council recognises that it has a commitment to ensure that all members of staff have an understanding of their roles and responsibilities when working with children and adults at risk and the requirement for reporting concerns.

- 4.52 All employees are required to complete the safeguarding e-learning awareness level module. More specialist single and inter-agency training opportunities are available for those who work routinely with children or adults at risk at a level appropriate to their role and responsibilities.

### **Child Sexual Exploitation**

- 4.53 Child Sexual exploitation (CSE) is the coercion or manipulation of children and young people into taking part in sexual activities. It is a form of sexual abuse involving an exchange of some form of payment which can include money, mobile phones and other items, drugs, alcohol, a place to stay, "protection" or affection. The vulnerability of the young person and grooming process employed by perpetrators renders them powerless to recognise the exploitative nature of relationships and unable to give informed consent.  
(All Wales Protocol CSE 2008)
- 4.54 Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy (CSE) meetings in Bridgend are chaired by the Group Manager for Safeguarding and the IAA service and supported by representatives from Early Help, Health, Education, Youth Offending, Barnardos and of course the Police. The work that the Task Force has coordinated has been recognised as innovative and good practice. As such the Task Force was nominated for the South Wales Police Innovation Awards in 2016 and in 2018 shortlisted by Social Care Wales with regards to Social Care Accolades.
- 4.55 The frequency of these meetings is considered on a case by case basis with the primary consideration being the risk to the child or young person. A constant chairperson ensures continuity and oversight of the actions identified within the care and support plans, continuous evaluation of the level of risk posed to the child or young person and identification and monitoring of those persons who pose the risk to the child(ren). Information about these individuals is closely monitored by officers from the Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing Persons team in conjunction with attending agencies, to assist in the disruption of their activities to better protect children and young people.
- 4.56 Each meeting takes into account the specific vulnerabilities of these young people to ensure their care and support plan targets all aspects of their needs and their need to be protected and educated around the facets of grooming and sexual exploitation.
- 4.57 Bridgend is currently monitoring 2 females compared with 5 in July 2018. Since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 a total of 10 young people have been monitored under this protocol.
- 4.58 The multi-agency CSE Task Force that was created in 2015 is now titled the CSE and Missing Person's Task Force. It continues to work hard to monitor and coordinate service response across the agencies and the importance of early identification and timely interventions remain a priority in the area of exploitation as a whole area. The Task Force addresses issues such as identifying gaps in training, highlighting and tracking high risk cases, new CSE

concerns identified outside of the strategy meetings, monitoring and mapping children and young people who are reported as missing with CSE concerns.

- 4.59 The Western Bay Safeguarding Children's Board had ensured that across the region there were a number of practitioners who were trained to deliver CSE awareness raising training. Prior to Bridgend joining the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board, the Western Bay region hosted an event that trained up to 50 practitioners across the region to be able to deliver a full days exploitation training which encompassed CSE, modern slavery, county lines, human trafficking, radicalisation and hate crime with a recognition that there were similar/common vulnerabilities that increase risk for young people in each of these areas of exploitation.
- 4.60 In light of this change of approach in exploitation training, Bridgend's Social Care Development Workforce Partnership (SCDWP) along with partner agencies will continue to implement training of this nature across the authority and with partner agencies to ensure that all aspects of the community are involved in raising awareness of CSE awareness across Bridgend. In addition, SCDWP will continue to offer bespoke CSE training to social work practitioners and Bridgend's night time economy staff such as taxi drivers and door staff. Bridgend's foster carers will continue to receive a rolling annual programme which will include CSE.
- 4.61 Good communication and collaborative working with the Police is essential in all cases and particularly so in CSE cases and cases where children are frequently reporting missing. A priority for all agencies is to protect children and young people but for the Police there is also the duty to investigate and prosecute offenders. The South Wales Police dedicated CSE and Missing Persons Team of investigators are co-located in Bridgend's MASH supporting better and more timely information sharing between agencies. Bridgend's Safeguarding team continues to hold its own data base of all young people who have been subject of CSE/Missing strategy meetings and also had substantial performance reporting arrangements with the Western Bay Safeguarding Children's Board. It is anticipated that Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board will have similar reporting arrangements but this will be established as the transition progresses.

### **Safeguarding in Education**

- 4.62 Within the Education and Family Support Directorate the Vulnerable Groups team was established in 2018 and its remit includes the safeguarding in education role.
- 4.63 The Vulnerable Groups team support children from groups identified by Estyn as being vulnerable or potentially vulnerable such as: excluded pupils, Looked After Children, English as an Additional Language and Elective Home Education pupils as well as the Authority's remit for Children Missing from Education. This "joined up" approach means that the team are able to offer schools ongoing advice and guidance around a range of areas and have expertise and skills in safeguarding and child protection as well as education.



- 4.64 As part of this remit the team facilitate and coordinate termly meetings for all schools in the BCBC area for their designated safeguarding and Looked After Children Education (LACE) leads. These meetings cover regular safeguarding and information updates as well as training sessions from internal and external speakers and agencies. This year these have included training on exclusion, county lines and Looked After Children training all of which have aspects which link into CSE and CSE awareness and risk and vulnerability.
- 4.65 The team have also provided bespoke risk assessment training workshops to support schools in understanding risk from both an educational and safeguarding perspective ensuring that pupils such as those Looked After and high risk pupils are supported safely in their education – recognising the significant link between exclusion and vulnerability.
- 4.66 All schools receive safeguarding training on a rolling basis and this covers raising awareness of CSE both in the compulsory training to all staff and in the more advanced multi agency training for designated leads. The Vulnerable Group team have also promoted the CSE Hidden toolkit out to schools so they can utilise it in their (Personal and Social Education) PSE sessions.
- 4.67 Nearly all of the secondary schools participate in a team around the school forum which discusses and supports children where there are concerns around educational or wellbeing needs - including potential CSE concerns, and this forum incorporates Early Help and Police as well as the Vulnerable Groups team and the Education Welfare Service.

### **Domestic Abuse**

- 4.68 Bridgend takes a holistic approach to domestic abuse and has a wide range of services. The Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse Sexual Violence Act (Wales) 2015 (VAWDASV) received Royal Assent on the 29 April 2015 and the aim of the Act is to improve public sector responses through strong leadership and a consistent focus on prevention, protection and support.
- 4.69 It ensures a shared, collective strategic vision through the development of national/local/regional strategies to tackle 'violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence' in all its forms. It further seeks to raise the issue of gender-based abuse, domestic abuse and sexual violence among senior leaders by placing responsibility on them to effect changes necessary to improve the safety of victims and their children.
- 4.70 Anybody can be a victim of abuse irrespective of their age, ethnicity, gender, etc., and the Act recognises this.
- 4.71 There are six objectives within the National Strategy that Bridgend also follows:

**Objective 1:** Increase awareness and challenge attitudes of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence across the Welsh Population

**Objective 2:** Increased awareness in children and young people of the importance of safe, equal and healthy relationships and that abusive behaviour is always wrong

**Objective 3:** Increased focus on holding perpetrators to account and provide opportunities to change their behaviour based around victim safety

**Objective 4:** Make early intervention and prevention a priority

**Objective 5:** Relevant professionals are trained to provide effective, timely and appropriate responses to victims and survivors

**Objective 6:** Provide victims with equal access to appropriately resourced, high quality, needs led, strength based, gender responsive services across Wales

### **Services in Bridgend**

- 4.72 The Inspiring Families Programme is an innovative 10 week intervention and assessment of families where domestic abuse is an identified component and the families have chosen to stay together. The Inspiring Families Programme is designed to be an accessible tool that will provide professionals with the evidence they need to make an assessment of the family and to identify the type and level of further intervention required. In Bridgend the intervention is focused around the child/ren and at the heart of the programme.
- 4.73 The Choices Programme is a model for behavioural change for males only, founded in the theory of the unequal position of females within society. The programme includes a five week assessment and successful participants will proceed to a 32 week facilitated programme. Bridgend currently has 11 participants in the Choices Perpetrator programme and 11 women and 14 children are also offered intensive support alongside perpetrators.
- 4.74 The STAR Project\* (4-6 years; 7-11 years) has specifically tailored courses aimed at children, teenagers and younger adults to explore safety, trust and respect within relationships. It provides children and young people with a toolkit of knowledge and resources designed to prevent them entering a domestically abusive relationship or, if they are in an abusive relationship, the knowledge on how to leave that relationship safely and obtain support.
- 4.75 The Spectrum Programme (safe, equal and healthy relationships) delivered in schools in Wales and funded by Welsh Government. The Spectrum Project is a national training programme funded by Welsh Government to raise awareness of domestic abuse and associated issues and is offered to all primary and secondary age children. In Bridgend this programme has been delivered to 405 children in schools.
- 4.76 The Freedom Programme explores the roles played by attitudes and beliefs on the actions of men who abuse and the responses of victims and survivors. The aim is to assist victims/survivors to make sense of and understand what has happened to them. The Freedom Programme also describes in detail how children are affected by being exposed to abuse and how their lives are improved when the abuse is removed.
- 4.77 The Recovery Toolkit is a 12 week programme for women who have experienced domestic abuse.

- 4.78 The Respect Toolkit is aimed at young people who have witnessed domestic abuse or are displaying abusive behaviour (after witnessing domestic abuse) to mum or siblings. Most programmes are delivered in a group setting however, they can be delivered one-to-one in certain circumstances.
- 4.79 Target Hardening is funded through the Housing Renewal Grant. Target Hardening as a concept is to increase the safety of a 'target' of crime. In Bridgend, victims are offered target hardening measures to increase their personal safety, those within the home and of the home. A stock of safety equipment is kept at the Assia Suite and provided to victims as an immediate response. However, a full property assessment is undertaken by Care and Repair (trained by South Wales Police) and the required measures applied to the home if the property is private rent (with consent of landlord) or owner occupier. If the victim resides within a Registered Social Landlord property, any remedial work to increase the security of the property is undertaken by them. Referrals are also made to South Wales Fire and Rescue Service where there is a threat or fear of arson.
- 4.80 The Support in the Community team provides outreach support to victims of domestic abuse within a community setting and at a location suitable to the service user.
- 4.81 The Assia Suite is a domestic abuse provision based within Civic Offices in Bridgend. The Bridgend commissioned domestic abuse service and the IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advocate) and the IDSVAs (Independent Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocate) are also co-located at the Assia Suite. The IDVAs and IDSVAs supports high victims of domestic abuse through the MARAC process. The Calan contract provides support to victims that drop-in to the service via civic reception, arrange monthly solicitor (pro-bono) advice sessions for victims, joint assessments with Housing Solutions team, etc.
- 4.82 Emergency accommodation in Bridgend consists of 2 refuges that house eight families. There are also a further five houses and five self-contained flats as part of the move-on accommodation from refuge to independent living.
- 4.83 Successful awareness-raising and referrals has resulted in 1269 domestic violence victims coming forward for support at the Assia Suite, 1027 females and 241 males. Over the past 12 months, 94 people supported had a disability.
- 4.84 5805 BCBC employees (79% of the workforce) have completed the VAWDASV e learning module.

## **5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules**

- 5.1 There is no effect upon the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

- 6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

## **7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Implications**

7.1 The implementation of the duties and responsibilities under the Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) (SSWBA) 2014, in turn, supports the promotion of two of the seven goals of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 within the County Borough of Bridgend. By promoting an environment that maximises people's physical and mental well-being and by supporting children, young people, adults and their carers and families to fulfil their potential no matter what their circumstances, the wellbeing goals of a Healthier and more equal Bridgend and Wales are supported.

7.2 The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with five ways of working to guide how the Authority should work to deliver wellbeing outcomes for people. The following is a summary to show how the five ways of working to achieve the well-being goals have been considered in this report:

- Long Term – Social Services is led by demand and the SSWBA focusses on wellbeing outcomes for the future. There is a requirement to safeguard and protect both children and adults in the longer term and, as such the Local Authority has acknowledged the need to bring together both the Safeguarding of adults and children as one safeguarding service.
- Prevention – the implementation of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub has enabled better sharing of information between agencies at the earliest stage to anticipate safeguarding and child protection at the earliest opportunity.
- Integration – the implementation of the SSWBA requires local authorities to work with partners, to ensure care, support and protection of all and more specifically it's most vulnerable. The report evidences consultation between professionals and partner agencies with this regard and with a specific focus to the safeguarding and protection of people within the Borough of Bridgend.
- Collaboration – This is currently managed in order to provide the best possible intervention for children and people across Bridgend.
- Involvement – the key stakeholders are the people who use children and adults social care services. There is considerable engagement through the inclusion of surveys, stakeholder meetings, feedback forms and the complaints process. The provision of accessible information and advice helps to ensure that the voice of adults, children and young people is heard and responded to.

## **8. Financial Implications**

8.1 There are no direct financial implications linked to this report.

## **9. Recommendation**

9.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the report.

**Susan Cooper,  
Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing  
July 2019**

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**11. Background documents:**

None.

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# Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board

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## SAFEGUARDING IN CWM TAF MORGANNWG

In June 2018, the Welsh Government announced that from 1 April 2019, Cwm Taf University Health Board will be responsible for healthcare services in the Bridgend County Borough Council area. This means that accompanying partnership structures in the delivery of social services across the Western Bay region will transfer to Cwm Taf, with the creation of a new Regional Safeguarding Board for the Cwm Taf Morgannwg area.

This is the first Annual Plan for the new Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board.

The area of Cwm Taf Morgannwg covers the local authority areas of Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf with a total population of almost 440,000.

The **Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board (CTMSB)** is a statutory partnership made up of the agencies that are responsible for safeguarding children and adults at risk in the Cwm Taf Morgannwg area. The Board ensures that people of all ages, living in the region, are protected from abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm. This also involves preventing abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm from happening.

Keeping children and adults who may have needs for care and support safe is everyone's responsibility. This means feeling safe and being safe within their home or in their community, school, work place or anywhere else they go.

The two key **safeguarding** objectives around **protection** and **prevention** underpin the work of the Safeguarding Board and inform the priorities that we have agreed in this Annual Plan for 2019/2020.

The **Cwm Taf Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)** sits within the structure of the Board and covers the areas of Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf. The purpose of the MASH is to act as the single point of contact for all professionals to report safeguarding concerns. This has significantly improved the sharing of information between agencies, helping to protect the most vulnerable children and adults from harm, neglect and abuse.

The **Bridgend Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)** provides safeguarding services from both the local authority in Bridgend and its partners through co-location and virtual links. MASH provides the opportunity for a higher standard of safeguarding by providing all professionals with more information on which to make better, more informed decisions. The MASH enables earlier, higher-quality information sharing, collective risk analysis and streamlined decision-making, whilst ensuring the appropriate actions take place at the appropriate time. It also allows an opportunity for early intervention and prevention of repeat referrals.

## What is Abuse and Neglect?

- Abuse means physical, sexual, psychological, emotional or financial abuse.
- Neglect means a failure to meet a person's basic physical, emotional, social or psychological needs, which is likely to result in an impairment of the person's well-being.

## Safeguarding for All

The Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board carries out its objectives in line with the national statutory guidance as set out in Part 7 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014. Our aim is to improve safeguarding arrangements for everyone. Collaboration between children and adults safeguarding arrangements in the area has resulted in a number of joint functions, including a joint Safeguarding Board. The Board continues to take every opportunity to collaborate across children and adults safeguarding to support joint working and the sharing of information and learning.

## Who are the Members of the Safeguarding Board?

The Lead Partner for the Board is Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and the membership complies with the statutory guidance issued under Part 7 of the Social Services and Well Being Act 2014. A list of members is attached as Appendix 1.

## What are the Core Functions of the Safeguarding Board?

Every Regional Safeguarding Board has a statutory responsibility to carry out core functions in relation to multi-agency safeguarding. The Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board carries out these day to day functions via specific committees and sub groups (see Appendix 2). These include:

- Contributing to the development, implementation and monitoring of protocols and procedures that support the protection of adults and children and to prevent abuse
- Raising awareness of the Board's objectives to protect and prevent adults and children from becoming at risk of abuse, neglect and other forms of harm, and to provide information about how this might be achieved

- Reviewing the efficacy of measures taken by agencies to implement the objectives of the Board and to make and monitor recommendations
- Undertaking child practice reviews, adult practice reviews, audits, investigations and other reviews as are required in pursuance of its objectives and to disseminate learning and information arising from these reviews
- Reviewing the performance of the Board and its partners and bodies represented on the Board in carrying out its objectives
- Facilitating research into protection from, and prevention of, abuse and neglect of children and adults at risk of harm
- Review the training needs of practitioners working in the area of the Board in order to identify training to assist in the protection and prevention of abuse and neglect of children and adults at risk of harm

## **WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES THAT WE PROPOSE TO ACHIEVE THIS YEAR?**

In addition to carrying out the core statutory safeguarding functions, the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board has agreed a number of key priorities for improvement for the coming year. These are specific areas that will enhance and support the Board in achieving its objectives and are as follows:

- 1 Safeguard children, young people and adults at risk from the impact of domestic abuse**
- 2 Improve the way in which we communicate, engage and promote participation with our communities and partner agencies**
- 3 Ensure that the transition to the new regional footprint for safeguarding is managed effectively**

A detailed work plan for the Board and its sub groups will sit underneath this strategic Annual Plan. The work plan will include the actions required to achieve the improvements required, who is responsible, timescales and measures of success. The progress of the work plan will be monitored and reviewed on a quarterly basis and will form the basis of the Annual Report for 2019/2020.

An overview of what the Board intends to do to achieve its priorities for the coming year is detailed below.

### **Strategic Priority 1: Safeguard children, young people and adults at risk from the impact of domestic abuse**

Domestic abuse involves any type of controlling, bullying, threatening or violent behaviour between partners or family members, regardless of age, gender or sexuality.

All forms of domestic abuse have a profound effect on those who experience it. The impact that domestic abuse can have on children and young people is devastating and can lead to problems in adulthood and have a detrimental impact on their mental health and wellbeing. This is a similar case for older people, but often the domestic abuse may not be as visible or they may not be aware of the support that is available to them. Some people will be more vulnerable to domestic abuse, such as disabled people who may not have the ability to defend themselves and/or be less able to access support.

In Cwm Taf, between January and December 2018, there were 980 high risk domestic abuse cases referred in to the MARAC<sup>1</sup> process.

The Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 sets out the requirements for an improved collective public sector response to the way these issues are addressed, to support victims and to prevent abuse from happening. There are Steering Groups that sits under the Cwm Taf and Bridgend Community Safety Partnerships to deliver regional strategies for VAWDASV.

The Safeguarding Board will therefore deliver this strategic priority in conjunction with the Community Safety Partnership to achieve the best outcomes possible for victims and their families.

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<sup>1</sup> Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference

Priority Area	What do we need to do?	Outcome Indicators
<p><b>Preventing Domestic Abuse</b></p>	<p><b>To PREVENT abuse we will:</b></p> <p>Raise awareness amongst professionals and the public on how to recognise and respond to domestic abuse (see Strategic Priority 2)</p> <p>Raise awareness amongst care providers and the third sector working with groups at increased risk of domestic abuse</p> <p>Ensure that all professional groups are well represented on multi-agency safeguarding training programmes covering domestic abuse, including the VAWDASV Ask and Act training</p> <p>Promote the work of those providing healthy relationships education in schools to break the cycle that children and young people who grow up living with domestic abuse themselves become involved either as victims or perpetrators in adult life</p> <p>Make links with the colleges and the University in the region to support the work of the Board in safeguarding people from domestic abuse</p> <p>Ensure there are training opportunities for all agencies in order to raise awareness of the impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) upon young people and adults</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Training evaluations evidence an increased awareness of domestic abuse</li> <li>▪ Training evaluations evidence an increased awareness of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)</li> <li>▪ Practice deficits identified in CPRs and audits are addressed and improved practice outcomes evidenced</li> <li>▪ An increase in domestic abuse referrals from the third sector</li> <li>▪ Professionals reporting and evidencing that the learning and development they receive in respect of Domestic Abuse has improved their practice and outcomes for the children and families they work with</li> </ul>
<p><b>Protecting and Supporting Children who have been affected by Domestic Abuse</b></p>	<p><b>We will PROTECT and SUPPORT children by:</b></p> <p>Ensuring that the impact and the risks posed by domestic abuse inform professional assessments and plans</p> <p>Being assured that the voice of the child is sought and heard in all Board activities aimed at protecting children and young people from domestic abuse</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Child protection plans result in objective, tangible improvements in the wellbeing and safety of children and their families</li> <li>▪ Children and parents identify positive improvements in their safety and wellbeing as a result</li> </ul>

	<p>Recognising domestic abuse, where the perpetrator is an adolescent (between the ages of 13 and 18) and responding appropriately</p> <p>Seeking assurances that work is being undertaken with perpetrators to address their offending behaviour and take an active interest in the same</p> <p>Explore the merits of expanding the model already adopted in Bridgend of informing schools in advance of the next school day, of domestic abuse incidents involving their pupils, enabling schools to respond appropriately</p>	<p>of the work arising from Child Protection Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Domestic violence reduces/ceases in those families where it was identified as a risk factor</li> <li>▪ A reduction in the number of Police Protection Notices for domestic abuse</li> <li>▪ An increased number of perpetrators engaged on perpetrator programmes</li> </ul>
<p><b>Protecting and Supporting Adults at Risk who have been affected by Domestic Abuse</b></p>	<p><b>We will PROTECT and SUPPORT adults at risk by:</b></p> <p>Seeking assurances that strategy discussions are held on a multi-agency basis where there are indications that domestic abuse is involved</p> <p>Making the connections between adult safeguarding and domestic abuse to understand the barriers to reporting experienced by older people</p> <p>Targeting support for the most vulnerable groups who are at a high risk of being subject to domestic abuse e.g. pregnancy, learning disability, LGBT, mental health</p> <p>Being satisfied that the provision of an independent mental capacity advocate is considered in all cases where a person lacks capacity to make decisions about keeping themselves safe from domestic abuse</p> <p>Establishing improved reporting arrangements for care providers where a crime has been committed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased MARAC referrals by adult social care professionals</li> <li>▪ Adults at risk identify positive improvements in their safety and wellbeing as a result of the work arising from their Care &amp; Support Plans</li> <li>▪ Domestic violence reduces/ceases for adults at risk where it was identified as a risk factor</li> <li>▪ A reduction in the number of Police Protection Notices for domestic abuse</li> </ul>

<p><b>Learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews</b></p>	<p><b>We will work in conjunction with the Community Safety Partnership to:</b></p> <p>Complete Domestic Homicide Reviews that meet the Home Office criteria and produce timely learning</p> <p>Ensure that the learning from published Domestic Homicide Reviews is shared appropriately and has a positive impact on practice</p> <p>Carry out a pilot project in conjunction with Gwent Safeguarding Board to carry out a Domestic Homicide Review, using the Adult Practice Review process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An improvement in the number of Domestic Homicide Reviews meeting Home Office timescales and quality standards</li> <li>▪ An increased number of practitioners receiving information on learning from reviews</li> <li>▪ An improvement in practice following actions generated from learning from reviews</li> </ul>
<p><b>The Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference process</b></p>	<p><b>Learning from and building on the model already established in Bridgend we will improve the MARAC process by:</b></p> <p>Continuing to integrate the work of the MARAC into the day to day functions of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs</p> <p>Completing the development of a quality assurance and performance framework for the MARAC process and agreeing reporting mechanisms</p> <p>Developing a framework and criteria for the MARAC process to ensure that the focus is on risk and agreed actions including methods of working more effectively with those who do not engage with service provisions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A reduction in repeat victims of domestic abuse</li> <li>▪ We will receive update and performance reports from the Community Safety Partnership / VAWDASV Board on MARAC developments regionally</li> <li>▪ A reduction in the number of cases being referred to our main MARAC</li> </ul>

## Strategic Priority 2: Improve the way in which we communicate, engage and promote participation with our communities and partner agencies

The Safeguarding Board is required to raise awareness with the public of the need to protect and prevent children, young people and adults from becoming at risk of abuse, neglect and other forms of harm, and provide information about how this can be achieved. As part of developing a positive culture of learning the Board also needs to ensure that information is widely disseminated within the workforce to inform them about best practice and learning arising from reviews, audits and other Board activities.

It is also necessary for us to provide children, young people and adults with an opportunity to participate in our work. We want to do this creatively to raise the profile of safeguarding in the region. This year we aim to increase the amount of engagement with the public, improving links with local forums and activity groups to ensure the voices of the people we support are thoroughly embedded into our work.

We also want to ensure that all feedback provided as a result of these activities is recorded and evaluated.

The Board has an established Group whose aim is to ensure that there are clear processes in place for the identification of engagement and participation needs and to capture the activities of partner agencies in meeting these needs. To enhance this function, the statutory partner agencies of the Board committed additional resources in 2019 to secure a dedicated post to support this work.

Priority Area	What do we need to do?	Outcome Indicators
<p><b>Information and awareness raising of the work of the Board and the need to safeguard children and adults at risk</b></p>	<p><b>We will improve our COMMUNICATIONS by:</b></p> <p>Reviewing and revising the existing Communication and Participation Strategy, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ How we will inform people of the work of the Board; and</li> <li>▪ How we will raise awareness of the need to safeguard children, young people and adults at risk</li> </ul> <p>Sharing the learning from Child Practice Reviews, Adult Practice Reviews, Domestic Homicide Reviews and audits to support improvements in multi-agency safeguarding practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An increased number of safeguarding events and awareness raising activities being delivered</li> <li>▪ Positive feedback received as a result of these activities</li> <li>▪ Increased awareness within communities of safeguarding and the work of the Board</li> </ul>



	<p>Capturing the safeguarding communications activities undertaken by our partner agencies to measure how well we are doing across the region</p> <p>Improve the CTM website so that it is a more user-friendly and useful resource for professionals and public alike</p> <p><b>We will improve our ENGAGEMENT with people by:</b></p> <p>Holding events for professionals and communities within the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region to raise awareness of safeguarding</p> <p>Using National Safeguarding Week as a platform to engage with our communities and professionals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An improved website is in place</li> <li>▪ An increased number of hits to the CTMSB website</li> <li>▪ An increase in the reporting and awareness of activities undertaken by partner agencies</li> </ul>
<b>Participation</b>	<p><b>We will provide people with an opportunity to PARTICIPATE in the work of the Board by:</b></p> <p>Carrying out a mapping exercise across the region to identify what participation work is currently being undertaken by agencies</p> <p>Ensuring that the people that we are safeguarding have a voice, including maximising the use of advocacy services to ensure the voice of children and adults at risk are heard throughout the work of the Board</p> <p>Building on existing links with youth forums/groups across the region to provide opportunities for them to be involved in the work of the Board.</p> <p>Building upon existing links with adult forums/groups to provide opportunities for them to be involved in the work of the Board</p> <p>Develop a Participation Ladder for the Board to demonstrate how effectively we are engaging with children, young people and adults</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An increased number of children and adults being offered/accessing advocacy support</li> <li>▪ An increased number of children, young people and adults participating in the work of the Board</li> <li>▪ The development of a Junior Safeguarding Board</li> <li>▪ Development of a Board Participation Ladder</li> </ul>
<b>Targeting People who are at most risk</b>	<p>We will raise awareness of and promote safeguarding activities in relation to <b>emerging themes</b> and those people who are <b>most at risk</b> including:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We will receive update and performance reports from the Community Safety Partnership / VAWDASV</li> </ul>

<p><b>of abuse and/or neglect</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Domestic Abuse (including Coercive Control) - develop a public information campaign and raise awareness amongst professionals to enable them to recognise and respond to the signs of domestic abuse with special reference to adults at risk, such as older people, people with learning disability, mental health and substance misuse issues</li> <li>▪ County Lines - ensure that staff/partners access training on County Lines and that information is shared appropriately to enhance understanding across the partnership</li> <li>▪ Radicalisation - complete a Multi-Agency Practitioner Forum in relation to a high profile case and disseminate findings to staff/partner agencies</li> <li>▪ Quality of Care for Older People – awareness raising to promote high standards of care and improved outcomes for individuals</li> </ul>	<p>Board on those areas of activity that are of a safeguarding interest to the Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An increased awareness of the factors that contribute to County Lines and its potential impact in the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region</li> <li>▪ An increase in PREVENT referrals</li> <li>▪ An increased awareness within partner agencies of the factors that contribute to the radicalisation of vulnerable young people and adults</li> </ul>
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### **Strategic Priority 3: Ensure that the transition to the new regional footprint for safeguarding is managed effectively**

From 1 April 2019, the Board will be responsible for safeguarding in Rhondda Cynon Taf, Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil and agreement has been provided to the Welsh Government that this new Board will be called the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board. The Welsh Government statutory guidance under Part 7 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 is currently being revised to reflect the changes to the regional footprint for the Safeguarding Board.

This process of transition requires effective planning and management to ensure that the Board and its partner agencies can continue to carry out core safeguarding functions during this time of change. Following a joint development day, the management of the transition process has been agreed as one of our strategic priorities this year.

Priority Area	What do we need to do?	Outcome Indicators
<b>Governance</b>	<p>To achieve effective <b>governance arrangements</b> for the new Regional Safeguarding Board we will:</p> <p>Review the membership and terms of reference for the Board and all Sub Groups sitting under the Board to ensure that all relevant partners are represented</p> <p>Agree the required resources to manage the business of the Board, including the financial contributions of our statutory partner agencies</p> <p>Develop a joint work programme for the Board, which will provide the detailed actions, timescales and responsibilities to implement the Annual Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Clear governance arrangements established across the region</li> <li>▪ An agreed resource and budget arrangement in place across the region</li> </ul>
<b>Protocols and Procedures</b>	<p>We will ensure that the new Regional Safeguarding Board has a suite of <b>protocols and procedures</b> to support the delivery of its safeguarding functions by:</p> <p>Identifying the documents that are common to both Cwm Taf (Merthyr and RCT) and Bridgend and developing new joint protocols and procedures</p> <p>Identifying the documents that are specific to each area and agreeing on those that will be adopted for the new Regional Safeguarding Board</p> <p>Wherever possible, developing joint forms and templates to support our safeguarding processes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The number of documents reviewed and adopted across the new region</li> <li>▪ Positive evaluations from professionals following the implementation of revised protocols and procedures</li> </ul>
<b>Training and Learning</b>	<p>We will seek opportunities to align the safeguarding <b>training and learning</b> activities across the region by:</p> <p>Reviewing the remit of the existing Training and Learning Sub Group to ensure that it meets the needs of the region</p> <p>Seeking opportunities to collaborate on safeguarding training activities across the region</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ An increased number of joint training activities delivered across the CTM region</li> </ul>

	Agreeing processes to identify and share learning from safeguarding audits and reviews with practitioners	
<b>Child and Adult Practice Reviews</b>	<p>To carry out the statutory functions in relation to completing <b>child and adult practice reviews</b> we will:</p> <p>Review the terms of reference of the existing review groups to ensure that a consistent approach is adopted across the region</p> <p>Agree a referral process for child and adult practice reviews</p> <p>Identify a pool of suitably skilled reviewers to carry out child and adult practice reviews</p> <p>Agree the processes for approving, disseminating and monitoring the outcomes of review</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Clear terms of reference for the child/adult review group(s) are in place</li> <li>▪ A common process is in place across the CTM region to refer cases, carry out reviews and share learning</li> </ul>
<b>Quality Assurance and Performance</b>	<p>There is a need to develop and agree a consistent approach to measuring the <b>quality</b> of safeguarding activities and reviewing <b>performance</b> by:</p> <p>Designing a regional approach to quality assurance, including audit programmes, tools and processes to support improvements to multi-agency practice</p> <p>Agreeing a suite of performance measures to satisfy the Board that safeguarding activities carried out by its partner agencies are effective and are achieving positive outcomes for people</p> <p>Developing a Partner Agency Audit Tool to support our work in measuring the impact of the work that the Board undertakes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The establishment of a clear QA and performance framework across the CTM region, covering both children and adult safeguarding</li> <li>▪ Thematic audits are carried out on a CTM regional basis which focus on identified Board priorities</li> </ul>
<b>Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs</b>	We will establish links between the Cwm Taf (Merthyr and RCT) and Bridgend <b>MASH</b> and identify opportunities to share good practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Links between the Cwm Taf and Bridgend MASH are established and any actions agreed</li> </ul>

<b>Regional Partnerships</b>	We will establish the regional links with other <b>partnerships</b> in order to support and promote safeguarding and public protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Links between the Safeguarding Board and other partnerships are established and any actions agreed</li> </ul>
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## WHO DO WE INTEND TO COLLABORATE WITH TO ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVES?

Working in partnership with other agencies is integral to the work of the Board. This not only applies to agencies within the region but may also involve wider collaboration with other Boards and agency across the UK e.g. when undertaking child and adult practice reviews.

There may also be occasions when the Board will need to engage with other organisations to carry out its functions more effectively. This may be on an ad-hoc basis or as part of a more permanent arrangement via Board or Sub Group membership.

These collaborative activities will often occur during the year as situations arise and these are reported in our Annual Report (published on 31 July each year).

Planned collaborative activities for the forthcoming year have been identified as follows:

<b>Who will we collaborate with?</b>	<b>Areas to collaborate?</b>
<b>Welsh Government</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Out of county placements for Children Looked After – this has been an area that we have identified as requiring more work to be undertaken on a national basis</li> <li>▪ Child Sexual Exploitation/Child Sexual Abuse National Action Plan – awaiting receipt of the same Summer 2019, with an expectation that we will need to report on this in early 2020</li> </ul>

<b>Community Safety Partnership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Domestic Abuse, Domestic Homicide Reviews - see Priority 1 for more details</li> <li>▪ Radicalisation (PREVENT) and Criminal Exploitation (County Lines) – see Priority 2 for more details</li> </ul>
<b>Gwent Safeguarding Board</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Adult Domestic Homicide Review pilot on a Rhondda Cynon Taf case – to be completed in the coming year</li> </ul>
<b>Cardiff &amp; The Vale Safeguarding Board</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New All Wales Safeguarding Procedures – Cardiff and the Vale are leading on this piece of work to update the All Wales Procedures to protect children, young people and adults at risk from abuse and neglect.</li> </ul>
<b>Serious Organised Crime Board</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Modern Slavery – prevalence in the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region</li> </ul>
<b>Care Inspectorate Wales</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To implement the new RISCA Inspection Framework for adult safeguarding</li> </ul>
<b>Third Sector</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Engagement in the functions of the Regional Safeguarding Board, links to communities, delivery of training and awareness raising and provision of services</li> </ul>
<b>Parc Prison, Bridgend</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To understand the safeguarding role of the prison and its links to the Regional Safeguarding Board</li> </ul>

## OUR BUDGET FOR 2019/20

The Board is in the process of agreeing a budget for the year which will be resourced by financial contributions from the statutory partner agencies. The budget set will enable the Board to delivery its priority outcomes as set out in this Annual Plan and it is proposed that it will be allocated as follows:

Business Management Unit Staff Costs and Accommodation:	£187,355
Advertising and Translation:	£4,000
General Expenditure:	£5,600

## Are You Concerned About Someone?

If you suspect that a **child or young person** is being harmed or is at risk of being harmed then you have a duty to report it immediately. All calls concerning worries about children are treated seriously. Contact your local Safeguarding Team on the numbers provided below:

In Rhondda Cynon Taf: 01443 425006  
 In Merthyr Tydfil: 01685 725000  
 In Bridgend: 01656 642320

Opening Hours:  
 Monday - Thursday 8.30am - 5.00pm  
 Friday - 8.30am - 4.30pm

If you suspect that an **adult** is being harmed or is at risk of being harmed then you have a duty to report it immediately. All calls concerning worries about vulnerable adults at risk are treated seriously. Contact your local Safeguarding Team on the numbers provided below:

In Rhondda Cynon Taf: 01443 425003  
 In Merthyr Tydfil: 01685 725000  
 In Bridgend: 01656 642477

Opening Hours:  
 Monday - Thursday 8.30am - 5.00pm  
 Friday - 8.30am - 4.30pm

To contact Children or Adults Services outside office hours, at weekends and bank holidays, ring the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Emergency Duty Team on 01443 743665.

**If you suspect that a child, young person or an adult is at immediate risk of harm call 999 and speak to the Police.**

If you would like to report a non-urgent incident, or have a problem or general query, you can call 101, the 24 hour non-emergency number for the police. **Use 101 when the incident is less urgent than 999.**

**Remember - safeguarding is everybody's business!**

**For more information and advice visit: [www.cwmtafsafeguarding.org](http://www.cwmtafsafeguarding.org) \***

\*new CTM website in development

## APPENDIX 1 - BOARD MEMBERSHIP

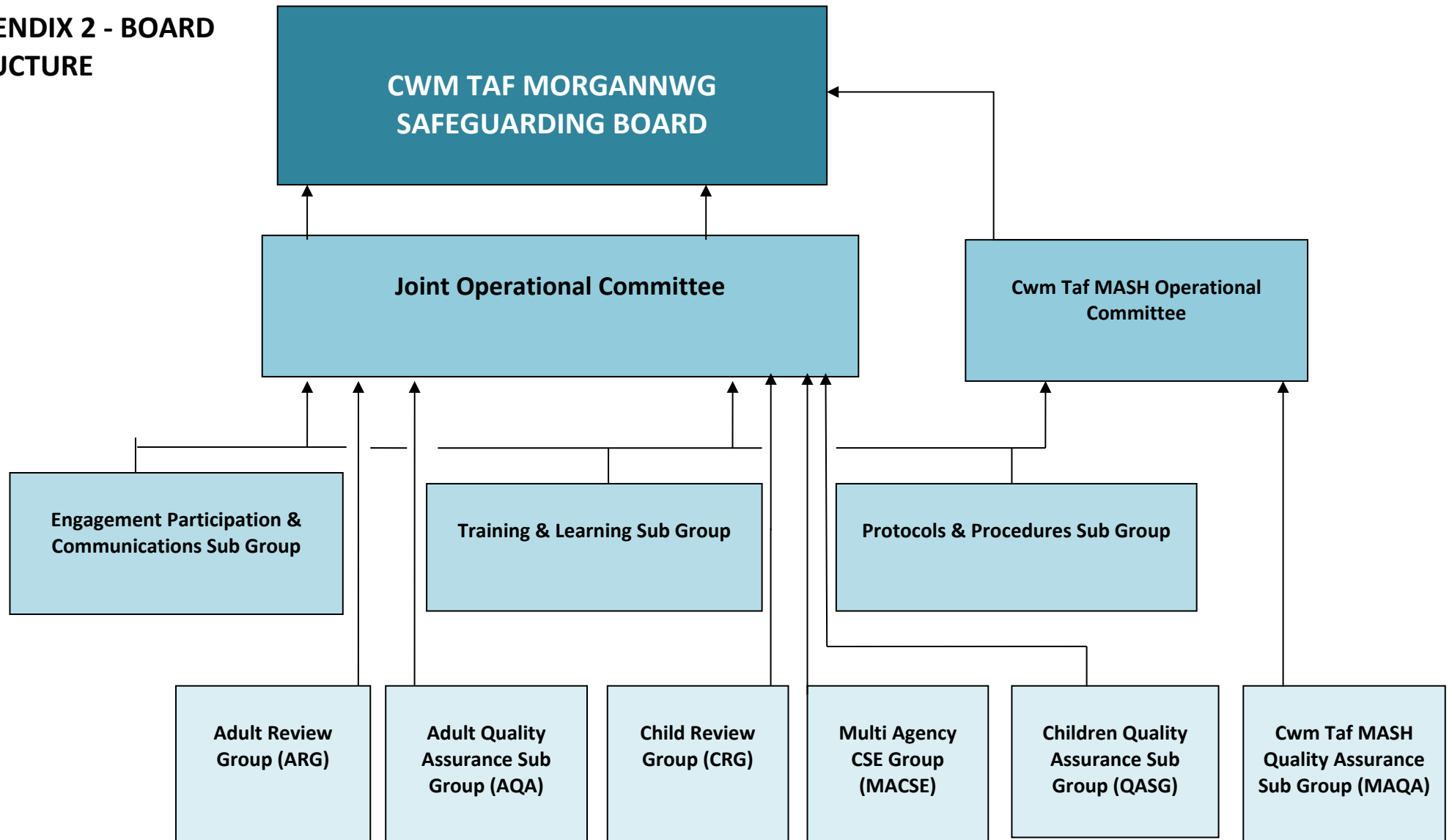
NAME	TITLE	AGENCY
Giovanni Isingrini	Director of Community and Children's Services (Co-Chair)	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Louise Davies	Head of Public Protection	
Jackie Neale	Adult Safeguarding Service Manager	
Neil Elliot	Service Director, Adult Services	
Julie Clark	Head of Safeguarding and Support (Children)	
Gaynor Davies	Director of Education and Lifelong Learning	
Ann Batley	Service Director, Children Services	
Cara Miles	Head of Legal - Community Care and Children	
Lisa Curtis-Jones	Chief Officer, Social Services (Co-Chair)	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Jon Eyre	Safeguarding Principal Manager	
Alyn Owen	Chief Officer, Community Regeneration	
Susan Walker	Chief Officer, Education	
Annabel Lloyd	Head of Children Services	
Angela Edevane	Head of Adult Services	
Carys Kennedy	Head of Legal and Governance	



Susan Cooper Laura Kinsey Jacqueline Davies	Director of Social Services (Co-Chair) Head of Children's Social Care Head of Adult Social Care Further members to be identified	Bridgend County Borough Council
Angela Hopkins Louise Mann	Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Patient Services Head of Safeguarding	Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board
Karen Thomas Claire Evans Beth Aynsley/Sue Hurley	Superintendent, Northern BCU Superintendent, Central BCU Independent Protecting Vulnerable Person Manager	South Wales Police
Eirian Evans	Assistant Chief Officer	National Probation Service
David Bebb	Assistant Chief Executive	Wales Community Rehabilitation Company
Jason Evans Ian Coles	Head of Young Person's Unit Interim Deputy Director	Her Majesty's Prison and Young Offenders Institute, Parc
Heidi Bennett	Director	Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations
Ian Davy	Chief Officer	Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil

<b>Maria James</b>	<b>Third Sector Representative</b>	<b>Interlink</b>
<b>Lyndon Lewis</b>	<b>Head of Service</b>	<b>Cwm Taf Youth Offending Service</b>
<b>Lorna Price</b>	<b>Designated Doctor (National Safeguarding Team)</b>	<b>Public Health Wales</b>
<b>Nikki Harvey</b>	<b>Assistant Director for Quality, Safety and Patient Experience</b>	<b>Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust</b>

**APPENDIX 2 - BOARD  
STRUCTURE**



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## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2

3 JULY 2019

### REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES

#### FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

#### 1. Purpose of Report.

##### 1.1 To present:

- a) To present the items prioritised by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee including the next item delegated to this Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- b) To present the Committee with a list of further potential items for comment and prioritisation;
- c) To ask the Committee to identify any further items for consideration using the pre-determined criteria form.

#### 2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities.

- 2.1 The key improvement objectives identified in the Corporate Plan 2018–2022 have been embodied in the Overview & Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes. The Corporate Improvement Objectives were adopted by Council on 22 February 2018 and formally set out the improvement objectives that the Council will seek to implement between 2018 and 2022. The Overview and Scrutiny Committees engage in review and development of plans, policy or strategies that support the Corporate Themes.

#### 3. Background.

- 3.1 Under the terms of Bridgend County Borough Council's Constitution, each Overview and Scrutiny Committee must publish a Forward Work Programme (FWP) as far as it is known.
- 3.2 An effective FWP will identify the issues that the Committee wishes to focus on during the year and provide a clear rationale as to why particular issues have been selected, as well as the approach that will be adopted; i.e. will the Committee be undertaking a policy review/ development role ("Overview") or performance management approach ("Scrutiny").
- 3.3 The FWPs will remain flexible and will be revisited at each COSC meeting with input from each SOSC and any information gathered from FWP meetings with Corporate Directors and Cabinet.

#### **4. Current situation / proposal.**

- 4.1 Attached at **Appendix A** is the overall FWP for the SOSCs which includes the topics prioritised by the COSC for the next set of SOSCs in Table A, as well as topics that were deemed important for future prioritisation at Table B. This has been compiled from suggested items from each of the SOSCs at previous meetings as well as the COSC. It also includes information proposed from Corporate Directors, detail from research undertaken by Scrutiny Officers and information from FWP Development meetings between the Scrutiny Chairs and Cabinet.
- 4.2 The Committee is asked to first consider the next topic they have been allocated by the COSC in Table A and determine what further detail they would like the report to contain, what questions they wish Officers to address and if there are any further invitees they wish to attend for this meeting to assist Members in their investigation.
- 4.3 The Committee is also asked to then prioritise up to six items from the list in Table B to present to the COSC for formal prioritisation and designation to each SOSC for the next set of meetings.

#### **Corporate Parenting**

- 4.4 Corporate Parenting is the term used to describe the responsibility of a local authority towards looked after children and young people. This is a legal responsibility given to local authorities by the Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004. The role of the Corporate Parent is to seek for children in public care the outcomes every good parent would want for their own children. The Council as a whole is the 'corporate parent' therefore all Members have a level of responsibility for the children and young people looked after by Bridgend.<sup>1</sup>
- 4.5 In this role, it is suggested that Members consider how each item they consider affects children in care and care leavers, and in what way can the Committee assist in these areas.
- 4.6 Scrutiny Champions can greatly support the Committee in this by advising them of the ongoing work of the Cabinet-Committee and particularly any decisions or changes which they should be aware of as Corporate Parents.

#### Identification of Further Items

- 4.7 The Committee are reminded of the Criteria form which Members can use to propose further items for the FWP which the Committee can then consider for prioritisation at a future meeting. The Criteria Form emphasises the need to consider issues such as impact, risk, performance, budget and community perception when identifying topics for investigation and to ensure a strategic responsibility for Scrutiny and that its work benefits the organisation.

#### **5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.**

- 5.1 The work of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 relates to the review and development of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the Policy Framework and

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<sup>1</sup> Welsh Assembly Government and Welsh Local Government Association 'If this were my child... A councillor's guide to being a good corporate parent to children in care and care leavers', June 2009

consideration of plans, policy or strategy relating to the power to promote or improve economic, social or environmental wellbeing in the County Borough of Bridgend.

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

6.1 There are no equality impacts arising directly from this report.

## **7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment**

7.1 The Act provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with 5 ways of working to guide how public services should work to deliver for people. The following is a summary to show how the 5 ways of working to achieve the well-being goals have been used to formulate the recommendations within this report:

- Long-term - The approval of this report will assist in the Planning of Scrutiny business in both the short-term and in the long-term on its policies, budget and service delivery
- Prevention - The early preparation of the Forward Work Programme allows for the advance planning of Scrutiny business where Members are provided an opportunity to influence and improve decisions before they are made by Cabinet
- Integration - The report supports all the wellbeing objectives
- Collaboration - Consultation on the content of the Forward Work Programme has taken place with the Corporate Management Board, Heads of Service, Elected Members and members of the public
- Involvement - Advanced publication of the Forward Work Programme ensures that the public and stakeholders can view topics that will be discussed in Committee meetings and are provided with the opportunity to engage.

## **8. Financial Implications.**

8.1 The delivery of the Forward Work Programme will be met from within existing resources for Overview and Scrutiny support.

## **9. Recommendation.**

9.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- (i) Identify any additional information the Committee wish to receive on their next item delegated to them by Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any other items in the overall FWP shown in Appendix B;
- (ii) Prioritise items from the Forward Work Programme to be presented to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee for scheduling for the next round of Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings;

(iii) Identify any additional items using the criteria form, for consideration on the Scrutiny Forward Work Programme.

**K Watson**  
**Head of Legal and Regulatory Services**

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Angel Street,  
Bridgend,  
CF31 4WB



## Scrutiny Forward Work Programme

The following items were previously prioritised by the Subject OVS Committees and considered by Corporate at its last meeting where the top three items were scheduled in for the next round of meetings:

Date	Subject Committee	Item	Specific Information to request	Rationale for prioritisation	Proposed date	Suggested Invitees	Prioritised by Committees
08-Jul-19	SOSC 1	Local Authority Estyn Report	Local Authority Estyn Report and Local Authority Response		Timings TBC - when go to Cabinet and then to Scrutiny	Lindsay Harvey, Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help; Andy Rothwell, CSC Senior Challenge Advisor; Andrew Williams, Acting Assistant Director CSC	
08-Jul-19	SOSC 1	Post 16 Consultation - Response to comments and recs	Provide a response/update to SOSC 1 as part of the feedback report			N/A	
08-Jul-19	SOSC 1	MSEP - Plasnewydd Primary School - Response to Comments and Recommendations	Follow up on recs from report that went to Committee on 29 April 2019 <i>(not a main item - may require short discussion or none at all- up to Committee)</i>			Lindsay Harvey, Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help; Andy Rothwell, CSC Senior Challenge Advisor; Andrew Williams, Acting Assistant Director CSC	
11-Jul-19	SOSC 3	Local Area Energy Strategy and Smart Energy Plan	Scrutiny Chairs agreed to bring this item into Scrutiny to assist with the production and implementation of the energy plan. Item to be allocated to a date following the Annual Meeting in 2019.			Mark Shephard, Chief Executive; Cllr Hywel Williams, Deputy Leader (representing Cllr Young); Zak Shell, Head of Operations - Community Services; Michael Jenkins - Team Leader Sustainable Development Ieuan Sherwood - Group Manager - Economy, Natural Resources & Sustainability	
11-Jul-19	SOSC 3	Corporate Parenting Nominations PSB Nominations	Scrutiny Report to nominate an individual Member to sit on the Corporate Parenting Cabinet-Committee			N/A	
05-Sep-19	SOSC 3	Sports Provision Playing Field Charging Strategy	Pre-decision item as part of consultation over strategy - to receive outcome of consultation before going to Cabinet in September			Mark Shephard, Chief Executive Cllr Richard Young, Cabinet Member – Communities; Zak Shell, Head of Operations - Community Services; Kevin Mulcahy, Group Manager - Highways & Green Spaces; Philip Beaman, Green Spaces and Bereavement Services Manager; Guy Smith, Community Asset Transfer Officer; Andrew Thomas, Group Manager - Sports and Physical Activity.	
09-Sep-19	SOSC 1	Post 16 Education - Consultation	Report scheduled to go to Cabinet in April 2019 incorporating comments from Scrutiny. This is a further report to receive hard options now going forward for Post-16 Education. Incorporate Penybont model- for discussion		Timings TBC with SIG - when go to Cabinet and Scrutiny etc around Oct 2019 approx	Lindsay Harvey, Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help; Andy Rothwell, CSC Senior Challenge Advisor; Managing Director CSC	
16-Sep-19	SOSC 2	Youth Offending Service	Directorate to produce a report outlining progress against inspection recommendations. To possibly include a case study open to Social Services.		Item Proposed by Corporate Director for this date. Corporate to confirm.	Lindsay Harvey, Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Susan Cooper, Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing?	
09-Oct-19	SOSC 1	Plasnewydd	MSEP Escalation to Committee			Lindsay Harvey, Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help; Andy Rothwell, CSC Senior Challenge Advisor; Head and COG and Challenge Adviser?	
10-Oct-19	SOSC 2	Prevention & Wellbeing Approaches and Day Time Opportunities	To be updated by Directorate				

04-Nov-19	SOSC 3	Highways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To receive an updated on a previous recommendation for Officers in Communities to work with the Digital Transformation team to improve the use of information sharing through ICT and explore options of the development of an app for residents and Councillors to use to enable them to report issues in their areas;</li> <li>Members have asked to be provided with an action plan along with timelines.</li> </ul>	Prioritised by at FWP Workshop	Last received June 2018	Mark Shephard, Chief Executive Cllr Richard Young, Cabinet Member – Communities; Zak Shell, Head of Operations - Community Services; Kevin Mulcahy, Group Manager - Highways & Green Spaces;
14-Mar-20	SOSC 1	Tynyrheol	MSEP Escalation to Committee			Lindsay Harvey, Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help; Andy Rothwell, CSC Senior Challenge Advisor; Head and COG and Challenge Adviser?

TABLE B

For prioritisation						
Item				Rationale for prioritisation	Proposed date	Suggested invitees
<b>Review of Enforcement Vehicle</b>	<p>COSC agreed that the item titled 'Review of Enforcement Vehicle' needed to be more than just an information report but possibly too small for it to be an individual item. The Committee proposed that this be considered as part of another related topic. The scrutiny officer agreed to take the comments back and see possibly where it could fit in with another item. It was suggested that FWP Planning meeting with Scrutiny Chairs and Cabinet Members that there be an general annual report on Enforcement and that the findings should include requested data in relation to the Enforcement Vehicle as outlined below:</p> <p>In February 2018 SOSC 3 requested to receive an update on the enforcement vehicle to enable Members to monitor performance 6-12 after implementation. Possibly an information report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detailed feedback on the vehicles use;</li> <li>How are the recordings reviewed?</li> <li>Statistics in relation to letters sent and details of enforcement.</li> </ul>			SOSC 3 Prioritised this item - 18 March 2019		Mark Shephard, Chief Executive Cllr Richard Young, Cabinet Member – Communities; Zak Shell, Head of Operations - Community Services;
<b>Remodelling Children's Residential Services Project</b>	<p>SOSC 1 requested that the item be followed up by Scrutiny in the future for monitoring purposes, incorporating evidence of outcomes. <i>A report is due to go to Corporate Parenting 6 March 2019. Do Members want to receive as information only or as a discussion item?</i></p>				Corporate Director proposed for later in the year, say Dec 2019	Susan Cooper, Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help;
<b>Member and School Engagement Panel - Annual Report</b>	Annual Update to - SOSC 1 on the work of the Member and School Engagement Panel					Spring term 2019 - Plasnewydd Primary School; Summer term 2019 - Ogmere Vale Primary School; Autumn term 2019 - Tynyrheol Primary School.
<b>Strategic Review of Health &amp; Safety Responsibilities</b>	<p>Practice, Policy and review of reported "near misses".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How many near misses have been reported?</li> <li>How did we respond?</li> <li>What lessons have been learnt?</li> </ul> <p>With reference to a recommendation made by BREP 2018 - The Panel request that an assessment of School Crossing Patrol and possible alternatives is included in this report</p> <p><b>Scrutiny Chairs have agreed to carry out an 'Information Gathering' exercise, interviewing representatives from schools, governors from schools and parents to present alongside the Officer report.</b></p> <p><b>Item to include information gathered from Scrutiny Chairs Research Group</b></p>			Lindsay Harvey, Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Health and Safety rep	Wait until after scrutiny research group completed	Lindsay Harvey, Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Gary Squire, Health and Safety Manager Mark Shephard, Chief Executive
<b>Education Outcomes</b>	See Feedback from 30 January 2019				Feb-20	Lindsay Harvey, Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help; Andy Rothwell, CSC Senior Challenge Advisor; Managing Director CSC Representative from School Budget Forum  Headteacher Representation
<b>New Curriculum Changes</b>	<p>Report on changes to new curriculum and how this is impacting on schools</p> <p>Need to determine purpose of report - whether this needs scrutinising or presentation to Members outside of Committee</p>				TBC - 2020	Lindsay Harvey, Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help; Andy Rothwell, CSC Senior Challenge Advisor; Managing Director CSC  Headteacher representation

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 51</p> <p>Home to School Transport</p>	<p>To provide assurances on rationalisation of Learner Transport as far as possible in order to make budget savings: Update on pilot that school transport team proposing to run in Spring and Summer terms 2017-2018 - to support the enforcement of bus passes on home to school transport contracts. As part of this pilot, the Authority is also investigating opportunities to track the use of our school bus services by individual pupils. Update on Recommendation from BREP: The Panel recommend the need for the Authority to adopt a Corporate approach in relation to Home to School Transport maximising the LA's minibuses such as those used for day centres. It is proposed that this be supported by slightly amending the opening and closing times of day centres so that the buses can be available for school transport. Other aspects that could be considered include the exploration of whether school staff could transport children and young people instead of hiring independent drivers. To test and scrutinise the current licensing and school transport regime to gain assurances that it provides adequate protection against the potential of putting children and vulnerable children at risk from those who are in a position of trust. Changes to the DBS status of their employees to be scrutinised to ensure that children are not being put at undue risk. To provide robust scrutiny and recommendations on how the current regime can be improved. To provide assurances to the public and maintain public confidence in the system of school transport Report to include Update on the current arrangements of how licensing and school transport operates within the County Borough since the change in 2015 to the Police National Policy for disclosing non-conviction information to the local authority. Information to include a report from South Wales Police on its approach to disclosing information it holds about licencees following arrests, charges and convictions. What is the current relationship between the local authority's licensing and school transport departments in relation to the disclosure of information from South Wales police? Is there sufficient oversight on behalf of the local authority and a risk of contractors withholding information which may prejudice the continuation of their contract? Further proposed that Communities be invited to add to report and attend meeting to update Committee on safe routes assessment to determine what work has been undertaken since funding was allocated to this over a year ago.</p>	<p>Receipt of the external review of transport report not due until end of August.</p>	<p>SOSC 2 Prioritised for 16 September 2019. Not ready for September.</p>	<p>Lindsay Harvey, Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Clr Phil White, Cabinet Member for Social Services &amp; Early Help (To stand in for Cllr Smith); Clr Richard Young, Cabinet Member Communities Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help. Mark Shephard, Chief Executive; Zak Shell, Head Of Operations - Community Services; Robin Davies, Group Manager Business Strategy and Performance; Sue Cooper, Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing.</p>	
<p>Plastic Free Bridgend</p>	<p>To receive an update on the previous recommendations made: • Members suggest that the Authority should take the lead on reducing single use plastic and encourage local businesses to follow suit. Officers responded that this would be discussed at Cabinet/CMB; • Members recommend that the Authority use social media to communicate what can be recycled at kerbside and at Community Recycling Centres; • Receive an update on the procurement of an external contractor to undertake enforcement action on littering in the Borough;</p>			<p>Mark Shephard, Chief Executive Clr Richard Young, Cabinet Member – Communities; Zak Shell, Head of Operations - Community Services;</p>	
<p>Empty Properties</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To consider the impact of the removal of the 50% discount, after a suitable period of time to allow it to have an affect;</li> <li>• To receive evidence that demonstrates the 'Activity' of work that has been undertaken across the Authority given the crossovers and links this subject has with other services;</li> <li>• To consider the pilot project mentioned by Officers where the Authority was looking to engage and work with RSLs to support property owners from a management perspective with the overall aim being to return a property back to use;</li> <li>• To monitor the performance and outcomes of the strategy including scrutiny of the national PIs for empty properties contained within the Authority's Corporate Plan as well as any further underlying targets and expected outcomes related to the strategy;</li> <li>• To consider how the Authority deals with property owners who persistently refuse to engage with the Council.</li> <li>• To consider any future alternative strategy that relates to Commercial properties.</li> </ul>			<p>Martin Morgans, Head of Performance and Partnership Services Clr Dhanisha Patel, Cabinet Member Future Generations and Wellbeing Clr Hywel Williams, Deputy Leader Helen Rodgers - Revenues Manager Lynne Berry - Group Manager Housing &amp; Community Jonathan Flower - Senior Strategic Officer</p>	
<p>Emergency Accommodation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To receive a more detailed option appraisal with reference to the replacement facility in Brynmenyn in the short, medium and long term including costings and timescales;</li> <li>• To receive an update in relation to Members recommendation to explore the opportunity to utilise surplus Local Authority owned buildings;</li> <li>• Members request a site visit to the Kerrigan Project direct access floor space facility that is managed by Gwalia.</li> </ul>			<p>Martin Morgans, Head of Performance and Partnership Services Clr Dhanisha Patel, Cabinet Member Future Generations and Wellbeing Clr Hywel Williams, Deputy Leader Helen Rodgers - Revenues Manager Lynne Berry - Group Manager Housing &amp; Community Jonathan Flower - Senior Strategic Officer</p>	
<p>Supporting People Grant</p>	<p>Following the implementation of the Homelessness Strategy, Members have requested to receive a further report on the Supporting People Grant and provide an update in relation to what steps have been implemented as recommended by the Independent Review undertaken.</p>			<p>Mark Shephard, Chief Executive Sue Cooper, Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing Martin Morgans Lynne Berry Clr Dhanisha Patel, Cabinet Member Future Generations and Wellbeing Ryan Jones, Supporting People Strategy Planning and Commissioning Officer</p>	
<p>Secure Estate</p>	<p>Possibly an information report to follow up on recommendations made.</p>			<p>Susan Cooper Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing; Clr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help; Jacqueline Davies, Head of Adult Social Care; Laura Kinsey, Head of Children's Social Care;</p>	
<p>Welsh Community Care Information Systems (Information Report)</p>	<p>Corporate Director offered an to members on how WCCIS has developed over the last few years. Members agreed to receive this at a future meeting</p>			<p>NA</p>	
<p>Early Help and Childrens Social Care</p>	<p>Presentation provided to Corporate Parenting on the below issues. • Detail of the process for a child coming into care - From a referral being received to a decision being made; • How is ongoing support established as well as any associated costs; • How is the step down or step up process monitored? • If individuals need support from more than one service (such as IFSS and Baby in Mind) how do services work together to monitor the individual? • Historical data to enable Members to determine if there has been any progress made; • Report to include clearer evidence of outcomes; • More examples of case studies outlining processes, challenges and outcomes achieved; • Members raised concerns regarding the freedom that schools have in the framework for teaching Personal and Social Education for preparing youngsters with Life Skills especially in Flying Start areas. Members therefore request details of what and how pupils are taught and how they monitor its effectiveness.  A report to be provided detailing position statement one year on. (May 2020)</p>		<p>May-20</p>	<p>Lindsay Harvey, Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Clr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help;</p>	

<p>ALN Reform</p> <p>Page 52</p>	<p>To receive an update on implementation on the act.</p>			<p>Lindsay Harvey, Corporate Director - Education and Family Support;          Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration;          Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help.          Michelle Hatcher, Group Manager Inclusion and School Improvement          Elizabeth Jones, Additional Learning Needs Transformation, Central South;          Denise Inger, Chief Executive Director SNAP Cymru;          Caroline Rawson, Assistant Chief Executive Director SNAP Cymru          John Fabes, Specialist Officer Post 16 Education &amp; Training.</p>	
<p>Empty Commercial Property</p>	<p>Members requested that the report include:          - Members understand that the Council are concentrating on domestic housing in the first instance when implementing the Empty Property Strategy, but have requested to receive a report on plans for empty commercial property when the timing is appropriate.</p>			<p>Mark Shephard, Chief Executive.</p>	
<p>Homelessness Strategy</p>	<p>Members requested that the report include:          - Progress on implementation of the strategy;          - Report to include information on vulnerable groups such as ex-offenders and care leavers.</p>			<p>Mark Shephard, Chief Executive;          Martin Morgans, Head of Performance and Partnership Services          Cllr Dhanisha Patel, Cabinet Member Future Generations and Wellbeing          Lynne Berry, Group Manager, Housing &amp; Community Regeneration;          Joanne Ginn, Housing Solutions Team Manager.</p>	
<p>Mental Health Strategy</p>	<p>Members requested that the report include:          - Members acknowledged that the Council are compiling a Mental Health strategy and recommended that the Council take into account the statistic that 95% of emergency calls received by the police after 5.00pm are in relation to mental health.</p>			<p>Susan Cooper, Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing;          Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help;          Lindsay Harvey, Corporate Director -</p>	
<p>Waste</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive an update on the recommendation for the Leader to make contact with local supermarkets and food manufacturers to phase out the use of black plastic and also to Welsh Government to encourage them to enforce the approach;</li> <li>• Receive an update on the alternative imagery regarding the clarification of vehicle and sizes permitted to enter the Council's CRC;</li> <li>• Receive an update on the recommendation of exploring the possibility of an additional dropdown box or a coding system to aid filtering subject matter to support what concerns are raised within each Directorate.</li> </ul>			<p>Mark Shephard, Chief Executive          Cllr Richard Young, Cabinet Member – Communities;          Cllr Hywel Williams, Deputy Leader;          Zak Shell, Head of Operations - Community Services</p>	
<p>Dementia Care</p>	<p>Members requested that this remain on the FWP to see what progress has been made since this last camee to Committee in April 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An update on plans to enable alternative options for short break beds</li> <li>• Members have asked for an update in relation to carrying out dementia awareness training through Corporate Training;</li> <li>• Facts and figures on Dementia Care through Cwm Taf.</li> </ul>		<p>Apr-20</p>	<p>Susan Cooper Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing;          Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help;          Jacqueline Davies, Head of Adult Social Care;</p>	
<p>School Governing Bodies</p>	<p>MSEP expressed concerns over Governor training and whether it was sufficient enough to enable School Governors to carry out their role effectively. The Panel requested that this be investigated by Scrutiny with a view to a recommendation that Governor training be reviewed and improved to make it more effective and fit for purpose. Members proposed that a job description, for example, be provided when schools advertise for Parent Governors to ensure that the right people apply for the position and understand what is expected of them.          At SOSC 1 on 29 April 2019, Committee also concluded the following in relation to comments from MSEP:          • Due to the fact that there are currently approximately 41 vacancies for School Governors, Members recommend that the promotion and advertising for these appointments are considered;          • That the proposed School Governor job description also include the days of scheduled meetings to outline what commitment the post would necessitate;          • Due to training sessions being cancelled due to non-attendance, Members request that the promotion of School Governor training sessions is explored;          • That a selection of School Governor representatives are invited to attend the meeting to provide their views.  <i>(see responses to this feedback)</i></p>				
<p>Movement of Pupils</p>	<p><i>From MSEP Plasnewydd (raise at next OPM with Lindsay/Nicola)</i>          Based on evidence received, the Panel requested that a scoping exercise be carried out by Scrutiny Officers to determine whether there is an item suitable for Scrutiny in relation to the movement of pupils from Welsh Schools to English schools within the County Borough.</p>				

	<b>The following items for briefing sessions or pre-Council briefing</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Specific Information to request</b>	
Social Services Commissioning Strategy	To include information on what work has taken place following the Social Services and Wellbeing Act population assessment. To also cover the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Annual Plan</li> <li>Bridgend Social Services Commissioning Strategy</li> </ul>	
Cwm Taf Regional Working	Provide an overview of working relationships with Cwm Taf. How are we undertaking regional working?	Apr-20
Changes to Education Outcomes	Update on how education outcomes are now being reported based on new WG legislation	

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