

**BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**REPORT TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2**

**12 JULY 2018**

**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.

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

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

1. 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.
2. 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.

2.2 The report also contributes to the delivery of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

**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.

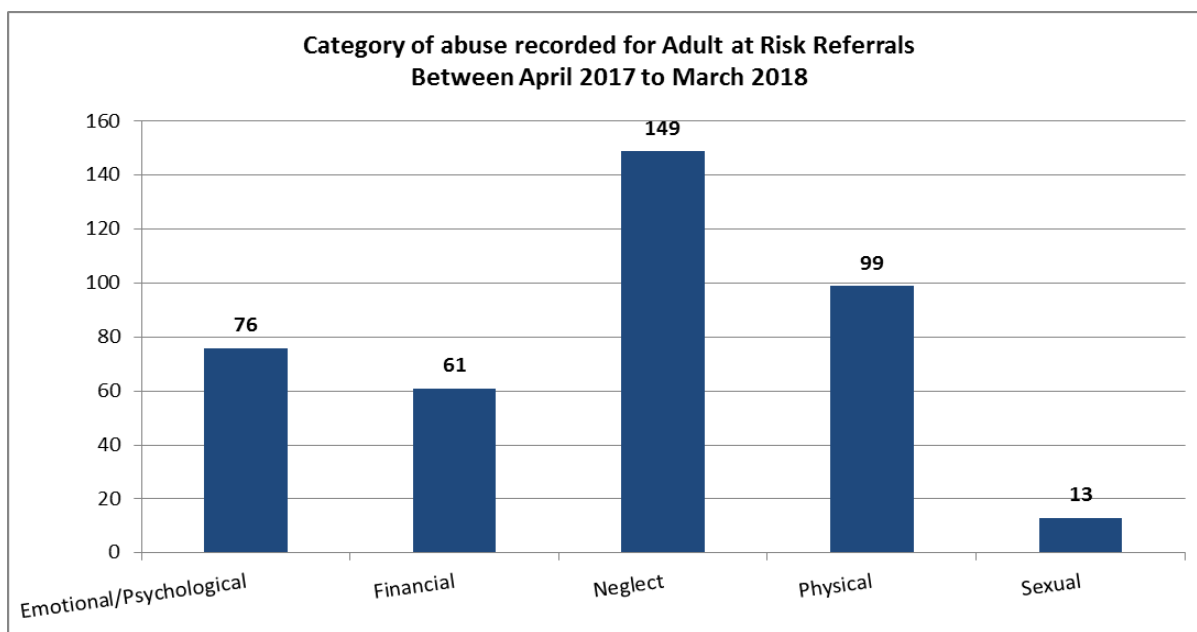
4.2 The main categories of abuse which are identified within existing procedures and within the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act are:

- 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 The table below shows the last two years’ figures since the implementation of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act.

<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>

4.4 The highest recorded category of abuse in 2017/2018 was neglect which accounts for 37.4% of the total recorded alleged abuse referrals, followed by physical abuse, emotional/psychological abuse and financial abuse. 75 referrals were for domestic abuse.



- 4.5 The Adult Safeguarding team have a very positive professional working relationship with all police officers in the Public Protection Unit (PPU) and the team is in regular contact with them to discuss cases. The team has undertaken joint visits with the police when required and share relevant information to assist their enquiries on cases. Senior police officers are an integral part of the Western Bay Safeguarding Adults and Children's board and are members of the Boards subgroups including representation for Adult practice Reviews. The Adult Safeguarding Team is due to join the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in July which will enhance the safeguarding process as services will be co-located.

#### **Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)**

- 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. 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.
- 4.7 DoLS is appropriate if people lack the capacity to consent to a particular treatment or care that is recognised by others as being in their best interest or which will protect them from harm. Where this care might involve depriving vulnerable people of their liberty in a hospital, care home, supported living or foster placement for young people over 16 years of age, the DoLS have been introduced, in law, to protect their rights and ensure that the care or treatment they receive is in their best interest.
- 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 Due to this judgement the number of DoLS referrals increased dramatically in 2014/2015 and still remains in excess of 400 per year. However Corporate Management Board (CMB) have been very supportive in identifying additional resources to enable the Safeguarding Manager to spot purchase independent Best Interest Assessors to manage the increase of referrals.

4.10 In addition to funding received from the Council and Welsh Government in previous years, there will be an additional £329,000 funding made available 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's allocation is £11,803 for this financial year. This is a contribution towards meeting the statutory responsibility.

4.11 The data below shows the numbers of DoLS referrals received in Bridgend by year.

<b>YEARS 1 April – 31 March</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>1/4/2018 – 4/6/2018 (1<sup>st</sup> quarter)</b>	<b>115</b>

There are currently 36 DoLS referrals waiting to be allocated which is comparable to the last two years.

### **Adult Practice Reviews**

4.12 Part 7 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (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 Western Bay 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 Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board and the Western Bay Safeguarding Adults Board.

### Current Adult Practice Reviews

Type of Review	Progress	Status	Date
Concise Review	concluded	Report published	28/2/2018
Concise Review	2 <sup>nd</sup> Learning event scheduled	ongoing	18/6/2018
Multi-agency professional Forum	concluded	Report published Action Plan developed	Monitored by Practice Review Management Group
Concise Review	concluded	Report written	Presentation to the Safeguarding Board in July
Concise Review	concluded	Report written	Presentation to the Safeguarding Board in July

### Safeguarding Children

4.13 On 12 March 2018, the Child Protection Register comprised the following profile:

Age Group	Category of Registration										Total
	Emotional Abuse	Neglect	Neglect and Physical Abuse	Neglect and Sexual Abuse	Neglect, Physical Abuse & Emotional Abuse	Neglect, Physical and Sexual Abuse	Physical Abuse	Physical and Emotional Abuse	Physical and Sexual Abuse	Sexual Abuse	
Under 1	6	10				1					17
1 to 4	21	15	3		3		2	1			45
5 to 9	22	18	6		1		4		1	1	53
10 to 15	25	16	2	3	2		2		2	1	53
16 to 18	6	4		3					1	1	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>183</b>

4.14 If professionals agree that a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm and their name is placed upon the Child Protection Register an outline plan is agreed between professionals at this time. In addition to this a core group of professionals is agreed who are responsible for implementing and monitoring the child protection plan. This 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.

### Public Law Outline (PLO)

4.15 Under the PLO, the pre proceedings 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 following a period of child protection registration.

4.16 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 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.

4.17 Bridgend currently has 48 children in this process and another 8 children who are unborn but there are plans to enter into this process when they are born.

### **Care Proceedings**

4.18 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 at risk of suffering significant harm should they remain in the care of parents or other carers. Bridgend currently has 28 cases in such proceedings. The process following the conclusion of care proceedings is dependent upon the care plan agreed by the Court at the final hearing.

### **Child practice Reviews**

4.19 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.

4.20 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.

4.21 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.

- 4.22 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 Western Bay Safeguarding Children's Board and partner agencies hold responsibility.
- 4.23 Bridgend is currently undertaking one Concise Child Practice Review following the identification of concerns where the above criteria have been met. This review involves a baby who died whilst co-sleeping with its parents.
- 4.24 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.
- 4.25 Recommendations from Child Practice Reviews are considered and actions agreed are reported to and monitored by the Western Bay Safeguarding Children's Board. The lessons to be learnt are shared with senior managers and disseminated through learning events and training to Safeguarding practitioners.

### **Regional Safeguarding Boards**

- 4.26 Part 7 regulations of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act specify the establishment of regional Safeguarding Boards and require each region to specify a lead partner agency for each Board. The Western Bay Safeguarding Boards cover the Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea regions, with Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (CBC) as the lead partner agency. The Western Bay Safeguarding Board's Annual Plan 2018-19 is attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 4.27 The objectives of the Safeguarding Boards are to both 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.
- 4.28 Membership of Safeguarding Boards is prescribed within the Act. A Board include 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)
- 4.29 The current chairs of the Western Bay Safeguarding Boards are:
- Adults Board - Susan Cooper, Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing at Bridgend CBC.



- Children Board - Andrew Jarrett, Director of Social Services at Neath Port Talbot CBC

4.30 Governance: The Safeguarding Adults and Children Boards have outcome focused business plans in place. There are management group structures in place which support the delivery of the business plans on behalf of the Boards. Reports are routinely submitted to the Boards to raise 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 provide leadership to the management groups. There is an established business unit based in Neath Civic Offices that supports the Boards in this respect. The team is funded through the Safeguarding Board budget and consists of one Strategic Business and Development Manager, two Strategic Business Coordinators and a Business Administrator.

4.31 The Terms of Reference developed for the Safeguarding Boards are reviewed annually and this promotes the requirement for accountability. There are clear definitions for professional challenge and holding 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 Boards also have measures within a Performance and Impact Framework which assist in reporting activity of Board members against elements within their role profiles. This allows the Boards to demonstrate multi-agency working at a strategic level.

4.32 The sub-groups of the Safeguarding Adults Board are:

- *Quality Monitoring, Review & Escalating Concerns Group*
- *Policy and Practice Management Group*

The sub-groups of the Childrens Safeguarding Board are:

- *Procedure and Practice Management group*
- *The Quality and Performance Management Group*

The joint sub-groups which include both adults and children are:

- *Strategic Training Management Group*
- *Practice Review Management Group*

4.33 Two priorities areas in the Boards plan for 2018/19 are:

1. Safeguarding People from Exploitation. This will include addressing current topics such as county lines and also increase focus on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.
2. Safeguarding People in Care Settings. This priority intends to bring consistency to monitoring of Care Homes for adults and children in relation to safeguarding standards and aims to develop improved contract and monitoring arrangements through the implementation of such standards.

4.34 Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE): CSE is actively debated at each Safeguarding Children Board meeting as a standing agenda item. A

comprehensive multi-agency data set has been developed with all partners which enables the Board to actively enquire about the prevalence of CSE across the region and to be clear on local interventions. Performance data is provided to the Board with 6 monthly updates on how agencies respond to cases of identified or suspected CSE and allowed the Board to target areas in need of training and awareness. A dedicated pool of Child Sexual Exploitation awareness raising trainers has been established using accredited training and resources with over 2000 staff trained across the region.

- 4.35 Domestic Abuse: The Safeguarding Children Board understands the impact that domestic abuse has on children living in domestic abuse situations and wishes to improve knowledge on prevalence, interventions and support provided to safeguarding children from living in domestic abuse situations.
- 4.36 The Board continues to work with the 3 domestic abuse forums to develop consistent information which will enable the board to understand more fully the prevalence of domestic abuse across the region. The National Training Framework is one of the key mechanisms for delivering on The Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015.

#### National Safeguarding Board

- 4.37 The National Safeguarding Board is an advisory board that advises Welsh Government on the effectiveness of arrangements to safeguard people in Wales. The Board is chaired by Dr Margaret Flynn with Board members having being appointed by Welsh Ministers through an open public appointments process.
- 4.38 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. The Board member linked to the Western Bay Safeguarding Board is Keith Towler who is also Vice Chair of NISB.

#### **Bridgend Operational Safeguarding Group**

- 4.39 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.
- 4.40 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**

- 4.41 Safeguarding is the responsibility of all Directorates across the local 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.
- 4.42 Each Directorate across the Council has identified an individual who is known as a Corporate Safeguarding Champion. This person acts as a conduit for information on safeguarding matters to others within their area of service and to signpost them to safeguarding services if they have a safeguarding concern. Following service reconfiguration and staff changes the membership of this group is currently under review.
- 4.43 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.
- 4.44 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**

- 4.45 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)
- 4.46 Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy (CSE) meetings in Bridgend are chaired by the Group Manager for Safeguarding and Quality Assurance. 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 the Police and attending agencies to assist in the disruption of their activities to better protect children and young people.

- 4.47 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.
- 4.48 When Bridgend initially started recording statistical data in 2014/15 relating to the number of children and young people being monitored under the CSE protocol, the Authority were aware of some 37 children who fell within this area of service. This number has decreased to 5 individuals currently being monitored by agencies via the CSE protocol. The 5 individuals consist of 1 male and 4 females ranging between the ages of 14-17yrs.
- 4.49 The multi-agency CSE Task Force that was created in 2015 has worked hard to monitor and coordinate service response across the agencies and the impact of early identification and timely interventions have resulted in CSE numbers reducing.
- 4.50 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.
- 4.51 The Task Force is chaired on a monthly basis by the Group Manager for Safeguarding and Quality Assurance and is supported by representatives from Early Help, Health, Education, Youth Offending 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 more recently shortlisted by Social Care Wales with regards to Social Care Accolades which the service will have the result about very shortly.
- 4.52 The Western Bay Safeguarding Children's Board have ensured that across the region there are a number of practitioners who are trained to deliver CSE awareness raising training and further work is underway to increase available trainers and training opportunities. Bridgend Social Care Development Workforce Partnership (SCDWP) along with partner agencies have developed a comprehensive training program to ensure that all aspects of the community are involved in raising awareness of CSE across Bridgend. All Bridgend's in house foster carers have received training in CSE and South Wales Police are working with the Authority to facilitate training to Licensees, taxi drivers and door staff to identify offenders and protect children.
- 4.53 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. The 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. In response to this South Wales Police now has a dedicated CSE and Missing Persons Team of investigators supported by a Police analyst who regularly completes a problem profile for the Bridgend area regarding children who are at risk of being sexually exploited and the perpetrators of exploitation. The Safeguarding team holds a data base of all

young people subject to CSE meetings and also has substantial performance reporting arrangements with the Western Bay Safeguarding Children's Board.

- 4.54 With regard to Child Sexual Exploitation and Education, the Child Protection Manager for Education delivers an annual programme of Child Sexual Exploitation training to year 8 pupils with their teachers present. This training is delivered jointly with South Wales Police Officers and evaluated on an annual basis. This ensures children and young people within the education establishments in Bridgend receive appropriate early education around the risks and behaviours associated with CSE.

### **Domestic Abuse**

- 4.55 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.
- 4.56 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 effect changes necessary to improve the safety of victims and their children.
- 4.57 Anybody can be a victim of abuse irrespective of their age, ethnicity, gender, etc., and the Act recognises this.
- 4.58 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**

- 4.59 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.

- 4.60 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.
- 4.61 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.
- 4.62 The Spectrum Programme is 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.
- 4.63 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.
- 4.64 The Recovery Toolkit is a 12 week programme for women who have experienced domestic abuse.
- 4.65 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.
- 4.66 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.

- 4.67 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.
- 4.68 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 support 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.
- 4.69 Emergency accommodation in Bridgend consists of 2 refuges that house eight families. There is also a further five houses and five self-contained flats as part of the move-on accommodation from refuge to independent living.

### **Modern Slavery / Human Trafficking**

- 4.70 Modern slavery is a crime and a violation of fundamental human rights. It takes various forms, such as slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour and human trafficking, all of which have in common the deprivation of a person's liberty by another in order to exploit them for personal or commercial gain. Training currently being delivered has been developed to help raise awareness for practitioners, better spot the signs and increase confidence in reporting modern slavery when potential cases are encountered.

## **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 development of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub will facilitate the bringing together of this service and will enable 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.

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**July 2018**

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## **11. Background documents:**

None.