

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.

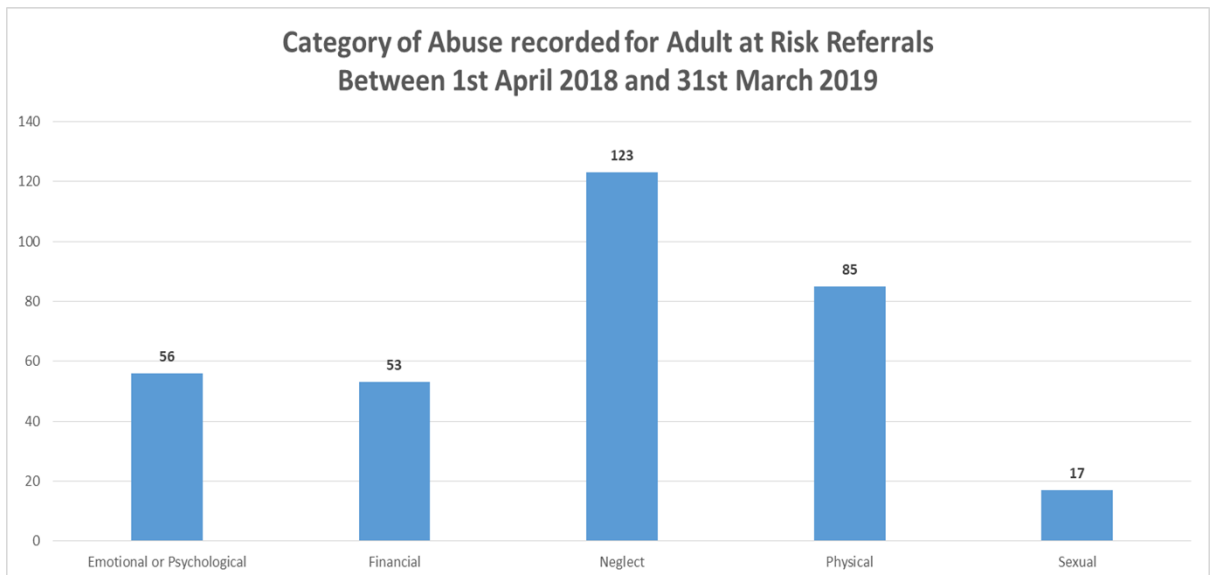
Table 1

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

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.

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

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 28th 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 1st 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 1st 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 IDSDVA (Independent Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocate) are also co-located at the Assia Suite. The IDVAs and IDSDVA 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.

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July 2019**

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11. Background documents:

None.