

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

22 JUNE 2021

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING

CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to Cabinet a revised Corporate Safeguarding Policy for approval. The draft Corporate Safeguarding Policy is at **Appendix 1**.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives/other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:
- **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
 - **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council requires a Corporate Safeguarding Policy to set out how it fulfils its statutory responsibilities for safeguarding children and adults at risk in accordance with the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act (2014).
- 3.2 The policy provides a framework for safeguarding children and adults at risk that all policies and practices within the Council should operate consistently within. The intention of the policy is to support quality service delivery, promote good practice and ensure services are delivered in a way that children, young people and adults at risk are safe from harm and are allowed to fulfil their potential and live the lives they want to live.
- 3.3 The policy is intended to be enabling; to ensure that all parts of the Council understand how to put effective safeguards in place. This is a policy for a positive, preventative and proactive approach to safeguarding, as well as ensuring that people are protected when serious concerns arise. To be effective, the policy must be owned and implemented across the whole Council and promoted with partners

and in wider communities. The policy is intended as an enabler of a positive culture, of proactively identifying, mitigating, managing and minimising risks to safety and wellbeing, whilst ensuring decisive and timely action to address serious concerns.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 The Corporate Safeguarding Policy was last revised in August 2020 to align with the implementation of Wales Safeguarding Procedures.
- 4.2 The draft Corporate Safeguarding Policy appended to this report at **Appendix 1** has been developed further to expand policy requirements in the areas of governance, quality assurance, safe workforce, and safe services. Whilst the current policy is clear that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, the policy revisions, make explicit the specific accountabilities of each Councillor and member of the workforce (including volunteers, agency workers and consultants) to safeguard children and adults at risk.
- 4.3 The draft policy includes a requirement for an annual report on the effectiveness of corporate safeguarding to be brought to Scrutiny and Council, alongside the annual report on the effectiveness of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Safeguarding Board.
- 4.4 These strengthened areas of the policy reflect areas highlighted in the October 2019 Audit Wales "Follow-up review of corporate arrangements for the safeguarding of children – Bridgend County Borough Council".

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 There is no impact on the policy framework and procedure rules

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

- 6.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales, the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. The Corporate Safeguarding Policy will have a positive impact on the safety and protection of individuals with protected characteristics, therefore it is not necessary to carry out an EIA in the production of this report as it is considered that there will be no unacceptable equality impacts as a result of 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 (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWBA) 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 Well-being 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 demand led and the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 focusses on sustainable prevention and wellbeing outcomes for the future. Effective corporate safeguarding both addresses abuse and harm and prevents its occurrence. It therefore is critical to the long-term well-being of people and communities of Bridgend.
- **Prevention** – Effective corporate safeguarding prevents abuse and harm occurring through compliance with clear policy standards which ensure a safe workforce, safe services robust protection and good governance.
- **Integration** – Safeguarding children and adults at risk is a multi-agency endeavour. The Corporate Safeguarding Policy is based on the Wales Safeguarding Procedures and safeguarding legislation which places statutory duties on the local authority and a number of other partners such as the police, NHS and probation to work together strategically and operationally to safeguard and protect people at risk of abuse or harm. The Council's Corporate Safeguarding Policy reflects those integrated safeguarding arrangements through the strategic leadership of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Safeguarding Board and the multi-agency operational integration through the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).
- **Collaboration** – The Corporate Safeguarding Policy has been developed collaboratively with input from officers across the Council. It reflects good practice in corporate safeguarding from other Welsh Local Authorities and the necessity of collaboration with multi-agency partners, people and communities to ensure the most effective safeguarding arrangements for the people of the County Borough.
- **Involvement** – The key stakeholders are children and young people and adults at risk who are protected and safeguarded through compliance with this policy. The involvement of people in all stages of safeguarding procedures is an important quality standard and voice and control of people is essential in the quality assurance of the implementation of this policy.

8. Financial implications

8.1 There are no financial implications in this report.

9. Recommendation

9.1 Cabinet are requested to approve the Corporate Safeguarding Policy.

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Background documents:

None