

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO AUDIT COMMITTEE

20 NOVEMBER 2014

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES

WAO LOCAL AUTHORITY ARRANGEMENTS TO SUPPORT SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to present to Members the findings of the Wales Audit Office review regarding Local Authority Arrangements to Support Safeguarding Children.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives / Other Corporate Priority

- 2.1 Internal and External Audit's work impacts on the Corporate Improvement Objectives and other Corporate Priorities.

3. Background

- 3.1 During the period March to May 2014, the Wales Audit Office completed a review of the assurance and accountability arrangements of Bridgend County Borough Council (the Council) for ensuring that safeguarding policies and procedures are in place and are being adhered to.
- 3.2 The study examined what the Council itself has done to seek assurances that its arrangements to support safeguarding are effective by reviewing how the Council is discharging its safeguarding responsibilities at all levels.

4. Current situation / proposal

- 4.1. The study focussed on answering the following question: **Do the Council's governance and management arrangements provide assurance that children are safeguarded?**
- 4.2. The main questions that the review sought to answer were:-
 - Are there clear governance, accountability and management arrangements for overseeing whether the Council is meeting its safeguarding responsibilities to children?
 - Is the Council monitoring and evaluating appropriate information, which provides assurance that it is meeting its safeguarding responsibilities to children?
 - Are assurance systems operating effectively?
- 4.3 The report concludes that the arrangements for governance, accountability, management, monitoring, evaluating, identifying and acting on improvements is overall adequate but some improvements could be made. The WAO have also concluded that

overall whistleblowing arrangements are generally sound, but some weaknesses in training need to be addressed.

4.4A copy of the Wales Audit Office report on Local Authority Arrangements to Support Safeguarding of Children is attached at **Appendix A**.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules

5.1. None

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 There are no equality implications.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 None.

8. Recommendation

8.1 It is recommended that Members note the Wales Audit Office report attached as Appendix A.

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