

<b>Meeting of:</b>	<b>CABINET</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>21 OCTOBER 2025</b>
<b>Report Title:</b>	<b>CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY REVIEW</b>
<b>Report Owner: Responsible Chief Officer / Cabinet Member</b>	<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH AND WELLBEING</b>  <b>CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>ALIAH AWAN-WILLIAMS</b> <b>CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING OFFICER</b>
<b>Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:</b>	<b>There is no effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules.</b>
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	<p><b>This report presents a revised Corporate Safeguarding Policy for Cabinet approval. The updated policy includes enhanced information relating to training requirements and procurement following an internal audit review of corporate safeguarding arrangements in Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC). The policy sets out how the Council corporately meets the requirements of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 in safeguarding children and adults at risk. The previous policy was approved in November 2023.</b></p> <p><b>This policy seeks to ensure that the Council has effective Council-wide arrangements in place for safeguarding. It provides a framework for every directorate and service area within and across the Council. It sets out responsibilities in relation to safeguarding and protecting children and adults. It lays out the methods by which the Council will be assured that it is fulfilling its duties and that effective practices are in place to support individuals to live their life free from harm, abuse, and neglect, in a wide range of settings.</b></p>

## **1. Purpose of Report**

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

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 It is a requirement of the Council to have a Corporate Safeguarding Policy which sets out how it will fulfil its statutory responsibilities for safeguarding children and adults at risk in accordance with the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.
- 2.2 The policy provides a framework for safeguarding children and adults at risk and that all policies and practices within the Council should operate consistently within this corporate policy. The intention of the policy is to support a safe workforce, 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.
- 2.3 The policy is intended to be enabling; to ensure that all parts of the Council understand how to put effective safeguarding practices 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.
- 2.4 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.

## **3. Current situation/ proposal**

- 3.1 The Corporate Safeguarding Policy was last revised in June 2021 and updated in November 2023 to align with the implementation of Wales Safeguarding Procedures.
- 3.2 An internal audit of Corporate Safeguarding identified that there was a need for development of the information contained within the policy regarding training. Staff must complete safeguarding training that is relevant to their role as a part of their induction, and then complete refresher training every three years or sooner if required. In the original policy, there was no specified timeline for staff to complete refresher training. This has now been included.
- 3.3 A regional internal audit was also undertaken regarding safeguarding in Council contracts which included an action to create and implement a Safeguarding Protocol for Contractors who are engaged by the Council.
- 3.4 The protocol provides guidance to Contractors so that they understand their role in supporting the Council to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children, young people, and adults at risk from abuse, neglect or harm. The protocol should be used in conjunction with contractors' own safeguarding policies and procedures along with relevant codes of conduct for the organisation or their professional/regulatory bodies.
- 3.5 These strengthened areas of the policy reflect areas highlighted in the Internal Audit Report Corporate safeguarding 2024/25 management action plan and Regional Internal Audit Service - Safeguarding in Contracts 2023/2024 - Recommendation Implementation.

#### **4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)**

- 4.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh Language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

#### **5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives**

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

Involvement	Representatives from varying levels of the Social Services and Wellbeing directorate, along with colleagues from Corporate Safeguarding group, have been engaged in the revision of this policy.
Long term	There will be a positive long-term impact of this policy due to meeting regulatory requirements as well as providing a safe and effective framework for corporate safeguarding.
Prevention	Prevention of risk and harm is at the heart of effective safeguarding practice. Ensuring that safeguarding is understood by the whole Council workforce should prevent the occurrence of serious harm through a well-trained, competent workforce who understand their safeguarding responsibilities.
Integration	This policy will be implemented and used across the Council and promoted to key partners.
Collaboration	Effective safeguarding requires multi-agency working. This requirement is reflected in this policy.

#### **6. Climate Change and Nature Implications**

- 6.1 There are no sustainability or climate change implications arising directly from this report.

#### **7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications**

- 7.1 The Council's existing Corporate Safeguarding Policy has been reviewed and strengthened to ensure it is robust and provides clear standards for all directorates and services.
- 7.2 The reviewed Corporate Safeguarding Policy has been strengthened through inclusion of additional requirements with regards to risk assessments, self-evaluation and quality assurance.
- 7.3 The implementation of this revised policy will further enable the Council to robustly fulfil its corporate safeguarding responsibilities.

## **8. Financial Implications**

8.1 There are no financial implications from implementing this reviewed policy.

## **9. Recommendation**

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approve the updated Corporate Safeguarding Policy at **Appendix 1** to this report.

## **Background documents**

None