



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

**NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL
SOCIAL SERVICES, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

23rd January 2025

MATTER FOR INFORMATION

Wards Affected: ALL

NPT Biennial Safeguarding Report 2022 - 2024

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this biennial safeguarding report is to provide a comprehensive assessment of the measures and actions taken to protect the safety and well-being of children and adults across Neath Port Talbot (NPT). This report encompasses the efforts and outcomes related to practice across Children's Social Care (CSC), Adult Social Care (ASC) and Corporate Safeguarding, ensuring a holistic approach to safeguarding across all departments and services.

By consolidating information from CSC, ASC and Corporate Safeguarding this report aims to present a unified and detailed account of our safeguarding efforts. The insights and findings from this report will guide future policy and practice development, training initiatives, and operational improvements, reinforcing our commitment to creating a safe and protective environment for all individuals living and working in NPT.

Executive Summary

The Neath Port Talbot (NPT) Biennial Safeguarding Report for 2022-2024 highlights the significant efforts and challenges faced by the NPT County Borough Council in safeguarding children and adults. The report underscores the resilience and commitment of the safeguarding teams amidst increasing demands and complex challenges. It details the comprehensive measures taken across Children's Social Care (CSC), Adult Social Care (ASC), and Corporate Safeguarding, emphasising a strengths-based approach and collaborative efforts with various stakeholders to ensure the safety and well-being of vulnerable individuals.

The report provides a thorough analysis of safeguarding practices, including case management, inter-agency collaboration, and preventive measures. It highlights key issues such as the prevalence of child sexual abuse, domestic violence, and the impact of socio-economic factors on safeguarding. The report also addresses the challenges posed by an aging population, resource constraints, workforce shortages, and the need for improved data metrics and analysis to better understand and respond to safeguarding concerns. Additionally, it emphasises the importance of public awareness, training, and the integration of safeguarding principles into all organisational processes.

Looking forward, the report outlines the ongoing and future initiatives aimed at enhancing safeguarding practices, such as the development of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Tracker (MAST) and the implementation of trauma-informed approaches. It also stresses the need for continuous improvement in inter-agency collaboration, technology use, and the adaptation of safeguarding strategies to address emerging risks and challenges. The report concludes with a call for a balanced approach that not only addresses immediate safeguarding concerns but also focuses on preventive measures and the overall well-being of the community.

Background

This report will cover the period 1st March 2022 and 31st March 2024. Data will be referred to from previous years where it is felt necessary to illustrate trends. The three areas of practice covered by this report are:

CSC - CSC is dedicated to protecting children from harm, abuse, and neglect. This report details the specific actions taken to safeguard children across NPT, including case management, inter-agency collaboration, and preventive measures. It highlights the successes and challenges encountered in providing a safe environment for children and outlines any strategic improvements implemented to enhance service delivery.

ASC - ASC focus on the protection and support of adults, ensuring their safety and well-being. This section of the report provides an analysis of the safeguarding measures in place for adults at risk, including response to incidents, support mechanisms, and inter-agency coordination. It also reviews the effectiveness of risk assessment procedures and the implementation of protection care and support plans tailored to individual needs.

Corporate Safeguarding - Corporate Safeguarding involves the integration of safeguarding principles into all aspects of organisational operations. This section of the report evaluates the effectiveness of policies, procedures, and training programs designed to ensure that all employees and stakeholders understand their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding vulnerable individuals. It also examines the governance structures and accountability mechanisms in place to oversee and enhance safeguarding practices across the organization.

This report, whilst referencing the work of the Regional Safeguarding Board, referred to hereon in as 'the Board' will not report on the work of the Board. To understand the work of the Board, the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board Annual Report (2023 – 24) can be

accessed via <https://www.wgsb.wales/> and will be presented to Scrutiny in March 2025.

Financial Impacts

Not applicable.

Integrated Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

Valleys Communities Impacts

Not applicable.

Workforce Impacts

Not applicable.

Legal Impacts

Not applicable.

Risk Management Impacts

Not applicable.

Consultation

Not applicable.

Recommendations

Following Scrutiny, members to note report.

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Appendices

NPT Biennial Safeguarding Report 2022 – 24 to be attached