



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND WELLBEING CABINET BOARD

20 January 2022

**Report of the Director of Social Services, Health and Housing -
Andrew Jarret**

Matter for Monitoring & Information

Wards Affected: All Wards

CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING GROUP BI-ANNUAL REPORT DECEMBER 2021

Purpose of the Report

This report is presented to Members as the second bi-annual report of the Neath & Port Talbot (NPT) Corporate Safeguarding Group (CSG). The report sets out the work undertaken and to be undertaken by the group in respect of safeguarding activities across the County Borough.

Executive Summary

Over the course of the last year the Corporate Safeguarding Group (CSG), referred to from hereon in as 'the group' has had oversight of the Council's response to Safeguarding during a Pandemic. The group has supported the Joint Inspection into Child Protection Arrangements (JICPA) across NPT, the findings of which were broadly positive for Children's Services, Education and Youth Justice. The JICPA Action Plan is now be a standing agenda item for the group to oversee. The

group also receive updates from Youth Justice and Hillside Secure Children's Home.

Currently the group is developing a suite of safeguarding data to track activity across the LA beyond standard metrics: Training, Safer Recruitment, Reporting and Responding to abuse Intra- and extra-familial harm, professional concerns, escalating concerns (care homes, including Children's care homes etc.). The group is also supported by the Social Services Quality and Strategic Practice Group who may embark upon work, such as, audits, dip sampling, Internal learning reviews etc. on behalf of the Corporate Safeguarding Group to consider matters of a corporate safeguarding nature.

This report presents the work of the group over the past six months.

Background

The CSG has been established to:

- i. To take an overview of the Council's (and partner agencies) responsibilities towards safeguarding and examine ways in which the Council as a whole and partner agencies can secure the safeguarding and well-being of children and adults in the area.
- ii. To ensure that the Council and its departments are fully compliant with legislation and policy pertaining to safeguarding.
- iii. To ensure there are effective joint working arrangements between Council departments and partner agencies, including working arrangements with the Public Services Board (PSB), Community Safety Partnership (CSP); Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV), Area Planning Board (APB); Contest Board and with the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board (WGSB).
- iv. To monitor and scrutinise the performance of safeguarding activities across the Council supporting good practice and challenging and holding to account poor practice i.e. Annual Self-Assessment.

- v. To ensure that positive practices are maintained, lessons are learnt and changes made in the areas that require improvements.
- vi. To develop and oversee the Council wide Corporate Safeguarding policy.
- vii. To develop and oversee the workforce development strategy and training plan to ensure that safeguarding is embedded and reviewed at the various levels across the Council.
- viii. To maintain a strategic overview of all developments, plans, policies and strategies for safeguarding and to make appropriate recommendations for action.
- ix. To ensure safe recruitment processes are implemented and adhered to consistently across the Council.
- x. To ensure that thematic safeguarding issues are actively addressed across the Council.
- xi. To ensure Members are regularly updated on issues relating to safeguarding practice.
- xii. To produce a bi-annual report for WGSB, Corporate Directors and Members covering the work undertaken by the CSG.

Financial Impacts

No implications for the group per se. with all financial impacts stemming from safeguarding activity reported through the respective Directorates i.e. Children and Adult Services.

Integrated Impact Assessment

There is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment as this report is for monitoring / information purposes'.

Valleys Communities Impacts

This report covers over the safeguarding activities undertaken across the County Borough.

Workforce Impacts

No implications.

Legal Impacts

No implications.

Risk Management Impacts

The CSG has sight of and monitors the risk(s) registered on the operational and strategic risk registers pertaining to safeguarding activity across NPT.

Crime and Disorder Impacts

The work of the CSG and its members, as is noted within the body of the report, plays a significant part in preventing:

- a) Crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); and
- b) The misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area; and
- c) Re-offending the area”

Counter Terrorism Impacts

The CSG, as is noted within the main body of the report, has some impact on the duty to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Impacts

The CSG, as is noted within the body of the report, has some impact on the general duty, to the need to remove or minimise any factors which -

- (a) increase the risk of violence against women and girls, or
- (b) exacerbate the impact of such violence on victims.

Consultation

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations

This report is for information only.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Corporate Safeguarding Group Bi-annual Report.

Appendix 2 - Quality Assurance Audits Quarter 1 – Audit Overview Report.

Appendix 3 – Quality Assurance Audits Quarter 2 – Audit Overview Report.

Officer Contact

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