



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

**NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL
NEATH PORT TALBOT SOCIAL SERVICES, HOUSING AND
COMMUNITY SAFETY CABINET BOARD**

8th June 2023

**Report of the Director of Social Services, Health & Housing -
Andrew Jarrett**

Matter for Information

Wards Affected: All

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES RISK MANAGEMENT MINI HEALTH
CHECK NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL**

Purpose of Report

To share the outcome of a recent health check on the management of risk across Neath Port Talbot (NPT) Children's Services.

Executive Summary

A number of high profile investigations and adverse reports regarding Local Authority Children's Services in the national press over recent times have placed pressure on organisations that provide children's services to review their service provision to ensure it is fit for purpose.

Many of the adverse reports have highlighted failures in the governance of these services, directly attributing liability to local authorities. The consequences of these failures can be profound and include physical and psychological injury to the affected children. The implicated organisation can suffer significant reputational damage and financial losses associated with claims for compensation. Against this backdrop, the main purpose of the mini health check is to review the organisation's performance in providing children's services and to offer constructive and practical recommendations to assist with compliance

and support activities that will reduce risk and its adverse consequences'. (Risk Management Mini-Health Check, 2023, p3).

The Risk Management Mini-Health check, attached at Appendix 1, provides Members with a comprehensive overview of the findings.

Financial Impacts

No Implications.

Integrated Impact Assessment

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

Valleys Communities Impacts

No Implications.

Workforce Impacts

There are no workforce impacts associated with this report.

Legal Impacts

There are no legal impacts associated with this report.

Risk Management Impacts

Whilst the attached report is positive in the broadest of senses in respect of risk management, the Strategic risk register is used to dynamically assess and reflect risk across Children's Services and Social Care per se. For example, increased demand across Children's Services and staffing are two areas of vulnerability to the Local Authority.

Crime and Disorder Impacts

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on the Council in the exercise of its functions to have "due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent:

- a) Crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment);

- b) The misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area; and
- c) Re-offending the area”.

There is no impact under the Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Counter Terrorism Impacts

There is no impact on the duty to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Impacts

Section 2(1) of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 introduced a general duty where a person exercising relevant functions must have regard (along with all other relevant matters) 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.

There is no impact on the above duty.

Consultation

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

Recommendation

This item is for information purposes.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

Not applicable.

Implementation of Decision

Not applicable.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Children's Services Risk Management Mini Health Check Neath Port Talbot Council (2023)

Officer Contact

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Appendix 1



RMP - Childrens
Services RM Mini Hea