

Strategic Panel: Safety of Children and Young People, Gwynedd Council Terms of Reference [Final Draft]

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Section 28 of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on local authorities to make arrangements to ensure that they fulfil their functions in a way which considers the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- 1.2. The following reflects the 'Statutory Guidelines on the Functions and Accountability of Directors of Social Services' [published by the Welsh Assembly Government – June 2009]. Although every member of staff has a responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, it is the Statutory Director of Social Services who remains the senior officer in the council with full and final accountability for safeguarding children.
- 1.3. The following does not change the Constitution of Gwynedd Council. The intention is to reinforce existing reporting arrangements.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE GWYNEDD COUNCIL SAFETY STRATEGIC PANEL

- 2.1. The aim of the Panel is to ensure that robust arrangements for the safety of children and adults are in place within Gwynedd Council.
- 2.2. The Panel will act on a Strategic level in order to:
 - Convince relevant Lead Members (Lead Member for Children and Young People and Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health) that the Council's procedures are robust where matters of safety of children and adults are in question;
 - Bring together interdepartmental work in the safety field and ensure effective corporate communication;
 - Support the functions and duties of the Statutory Director within the Council;
 - Resolve any possible barriers to having effective and successful procedures in place;
 - Receive and consider information about trends in relation to allegations of professional abuse, and adopt action plans to response should the needs arise;
 - Receive and challenge information about the progress against commissioned work programmes (priority will be given in the short-term to the work programme to respond to the Pembrokeshire joint inspectorates' review report);
 - Consider and understand the implications of Serious Case Reviews and ensure that the Council responds effectively to recommendations within such reviews;
 - Accept and challenge the Annual Report of the Statutory Director.

3. CHAIRSHIP

- 3.1. Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

4. FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

- 4.1. Meetings every six months [to be reviewed in March 2013].

5. GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- 5.1. The Strategic Panel is accountable to Gwynedd Council Cabinet. The Chair has the right to refer matters to the Cabinet if not satisfied.
- 5.3. The 'Project Group – Responding to the Pembrokeshire Joint Inspection Report' is accountable to the Strategic Panel.
- 5.4. Business Management [i.e. creating a work programme, meeting agendas, secretariat, central communication point, organising additional professional advice if needed] through the function of the Corporate Director.

6. MEMBERSHIP

Name	Title
Cllr. Siân Gwenllian	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.
Cllr. R.H. Wyn Williams	Cabinet Member – Care [lead member for Social Services, Health, Strategic]
Iwan Trefor Jones	Corporate Director
A Morwena Edwards	Statutory Director of Social Services
Marian Parry Hughes	Senior Manager – Children Services [Social Services]
Dewi R. Jones	Head of Education Department
Alwyn E. Jones	Head of Human Resources Department
Geraint Owen	Senior Manager - Human Resources
Dilys A. Phillips	Head of Democracy and Legal Department
Ian Vaughan Roberts	Business Manager - Gwynedd and Anglesey LSCB