

CYNGOR GWYNEDD



REPORT TO A MEETING OF GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET

Date of Meeting:	27 June, 2017
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Dilwyn Morgan
Contact Officer:	Morwena Edwards, Corporate Director
Contact Number:	Telephone 01286 679468
Title of Item:	Safeguarding and the role of the Strategic Safeguarding Panel

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Current arrangements and specifically the corporate responsibility to undertake its overall duty to safeguard have been in place for approximately four years.
- 1.2 During this period, it is fair to say that good progress has been made in terms of awareness and understanding of safeguarding matters across the Council. Safeguarding has also been a strategic priority within the Strategic Plan 2012-17 and has consequently received regular attention from the Cabinet.
- 1.3 It is timely to review the effectiveness of the current arrangements at the inception of a new Cabinet. It is also timely to do this as there have been many legislative changes, including changes in terms of regional arrangements, and additional requirements have been made during the period since establishing the current arrangements.
- 1.4 Therefore, the purpose of this report is to seek to review governance arrangements and also ensure that reporting and accountability arrangements are completely clear for the future.

2. THE DECISION SOUGHT

- 2.1 Approve extending the work of the Strategic Safeguarding Panel to include duties that are placed on the Authority which relate to counter terrorism, modern slavery, domestic abuse and community safety.
- 2.2 Deputise responsibility to the Strategic Safeguarding Panel to review and agree necessary changes to the Corporate Safeguarding Policy arising from adopting changes to the terms of reference.

3. THE REASON FOR THE NEED FOR A DECISION

CYNGOR GWYNEDD

- 
- 3.1 In order to ensure that robust arrangements for safeguarding children, young people and adults are in place within the Council.

4. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

- 4.1 These are the main legislative requirements that need to be considered when looking at the safeguarding field and wider responsibilities: -

1. The Corporate Responsibility to Practice its general responsibilities to safeguard.
2. Social Services' Statutory Requirements
3. Counter-terrorism Requirements (Home Office) (CONTEST)
4. Modern Slavery Requirements
5. Social Inclusion Requirements
6. Domestic Violence Requirements

- 4.2 In regards to establishing the current arrangements, the intention was to establish arrangements that would respond and ensure that the Council has robust corporate safeguarding arrangements following the Pembrokeshire Report. In addition to receiving important information from the Statutory Director.

- 4.3 When the current arrangements were established the requirements in terms of counter terrorism or radicalization nor modern slavery were less prominent. The need to include domestic violence matters or social inclusion within the safeguarding agenda were also not considered. The Community Safety Partnership is responsible for these matters; this Partnership is a legislative requirement under the Home Office's requirements. The CSP (Community Safety Partnership) is a partnership across Anglesey and Gwynedd and is a multi agency partnership. Therefore at the time, it was seen that arrangements were also in place for these matters.

- 4.4 What has become more apparent over the past year is that the requirements of the above fields (4.1) overlap and that the nature of the fields are regarded as wider safeguarding issues.

- 4.5 It has also become apparent that there is a need for specific corporate attention on many of these matters, and that there is no obvious forum to discuss the matters the Council needs to implement or be aware of.

- 4.6 The conclusion therefore is that there is an opportunity to take advantage and expand the Strategic Safeguarding Panel's field of work to include responsibilities relating to counter terrorism, modern slavery, domestic violence and community safety. The benefits of doing this are:

- avoid creating new arrangements
- ensure that one Panel oversees the wider agenda

CYNGOR GWYNEDD



- make best use of the Safeguarding Operational Group and those officers who are champions
- avoid complicating the field by coordinating messages and training for staff and members
- make the linkages between the requirements and avoid duplication and confusion

5. NEXT STEPS AND TIMETABLE

5.1 None to note.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO RECOMMENDING THE DECISION

6.1 Views of the Statutory Officers:

i. Monitoring Officer:

Having regard to the functions and way the Strategic Safeguarding Panel and the Safeguarding Operations Group operate I am satisfied that the proposed changes to the terms of reference are logical and offer an appropriate medium to provide an overview of these additional statutory areas.

ii. Head of Finance Department:

I have received confirmation from the author that the decision required will not create any new financial commitments, hence I have no objection to the recommendations.

6.2 Views of the Local Member:

6.2.1 Not a local matter.

6.3 Results of Any Consultation:

6.3.1 None to note.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Terms of Reference of the Strategic Safeguarding Panel

CYNGOR GWYNEDD

