

**Annual Report of the Strategic Safeguarding Panel
2017/18**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Members will be aware that the Council gives high priority to the safeguarding field. Safeguarding was a specific project within the Council Plan 2013-18. The term of this Plan and the Safeguarding projects within it has now come to an end.
- 1.2 Members will be also be aware that the Strategic Children and Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Panel was established to provide assurance to the Cabinet and the Statutory Director of the efficiency of our safeguarding and protection arrangements as a Council.
- 1.3 Members will recall allowing the Strategic Safeguarding Panel to broaden its focus during 2017-18 and expanded the Panel's focus and responsibility to include counter terrorism duties, duties relating to recognising and preventing radicalization, modern slavery requirements, domestic violence requirements and Social Inclusion Requirements. This will ensure that the Panel has an overview of the wider safeguarding agenda which exists to make best use of the safeguarding operational group and the officers who are champions in the above fields.
- 1.2 Therefore, the purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the Panel's work for 2017/18 along with a summary of the opinion of external inspectors of our arrangements. In addition, we will also summarise our intentions for the Panel's priorities for 2018 onwards.
- 1.3 During the year, the Panel was chaired by Councillor Dilwyn Morgan and was supported by Morwena Edwards, the Statutory Director responsible for the safeguarding field. Councillors Gareth Roberts and Gareth Thomas are also Panel Members due to their responsibilities in the fields of adults and children. As it is expected for the Panel to consider our responsibilities in terms of the broader Safeguarding matters, the Panel's Terms of Reference have been expanded and Councillor Nia Jeffreys is now a member of the panel due to her duties in relation to community safety. In terms of Officers, a number of Heads of Department are Panel members (such as Education, Adults, Children and Corporate Support) and the Monitoring Officer is also a member of the panel.
- 1.4 An Operational Group exists to support the work of the panel. The purpose of this Group is to implement the work programme and deal with operational matters. The Group's membership includes the safeguarding champions from each of the Council's departments. The Chair of the Operational Group also serves on the Strategic Panel.
- 1.6 Other arrangements, such as the Regional Safeguarding Boards for Children and Vulnerable Adults, exist to deal with specialised issues within the field. These Boards are statutory and operate across agencies, with specific and legal responsibilities. The Council has a responsibility to contribute to these Boards regionally in terms of implementation. At the end of this report there is a link to the Annual Reports of these Safeguarding Boards.

- 1.7 The Corporate Director is required to consistently and regularly report upon Safeguarding matters to members. The Director submitted her Annual Report to the Full Council in July 2018. It is our intention to report upon the progress within the safeguarding field every six months.
This report looks at the 2017/18 period.

2. What has been achieved during 2017/18 (Council Plan 2013-2017 Projects)?

Field of work	Action / Result	Status
D1- Ensure Whole Council Ownership in the Safeguarding Field		
Review Policies and procedures every year	Corporate Policy reviewed and introduced to the workforce through the Policy Centre.	Completed
Ensure that arrangements are in place for measuring the impact of the corporate safeguarding arrangements	Encouraging corporate ownership of the safeguarding field is one of the authority's priorities. Since adopting the Corporate Safeguarding Policy and departmental Safeguarding policies, we have ensured that operating in accordance with the policy impacts on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. An impact measurement framework had been drawn up and submitted to the Panel. Managers are continuing to gather case studies. Experience prompts etc.	Completed
Hold awareness raising sessions in the field and monitor their impact	A comprehensive programme to raise awareness has taken place during the year including a promotional campaign during the National Safeguarding Week in November. A Safeguarding Hub has been created on i-Gwynedd and training for elected members was held during the year. E-learning access for front-line staff without access to IT continues to be a challenge.	Has been achieved
Hold an annual audit of compliance with the policy	An annual audit on the awareness of the Safeguarding Policy has been held. The audit shows that there is still room to improve awareness levels among field workers. Reaching field workers is more difficult as they have no IT accounts to gain access to the safeguarding tools that have already been developed. The audit noted that face-to-face sessions would be more valuable to them than promoting digital media.	Has been achieved
Monitor contract arrangements (staff and provisions) in terms of	A Disclosure guidance has been developed and a DBS module created and introduced on the self-service system to help managers	Some work continues

safeguarding and strengthen procedures as needed	identify and track jobs that require a disclosure with greater ease. Continues to be a challenge, there is currently no progress in terms of the disclosures of governors or elected members.	
D2 - Safeguarding Children and Young People		
Ensure that the Council's arrangements coincide with the regional strategy which is being developed on a multi-agency level	There is suitable representation on a senior manager level at the Regional CS Board and messages from the Board are communicated clearly and respond to requests for information appropriately.	Has been achieved
Ensure that the Council, as far as possible, understands the demand for services and CSE trends in Gwynedd	Electronic systems have been developed to gather and maintain information and data of the demand in the field and in order to have a better understanding of risk levels. CSE work is part of the mainstream work of the Children and Supporting Families Department.	Has been achieved.
Improve the understanding and awareness of individuals and key groups within this specific field, including how to identify the signs.	Expert training has been provided by Dr Helen Beckett to a broad group of staff across agencies. A more detailed understanding of the field within the Department and our partners.	Has been achieved
Acknowledge that the risk is higher for looked after children, and work with the Corporate Parenting Panel to try to safeguard the most vulnerable children.	Since the emergence of the WCCIS information system, the Children and Supporting Families is better placed to identify the number of looked after children who are at risk of CSE; those who need initial work to avoid risks increasing and remedial work to safeguard them.	Work programme continuing
Conduct an annual audit of safeguarding and governance arrangements within the department and schools.	A routine annual audit of safeguarding and governance arrangements in place within the department. The department receives a Governors' Annual Report from every school. These reports feed into the education department's annual safeguarding business plan. A number of other audits have been conducted during the year.	Work programme continuing
Create a training programme to meet the needs of the annual audit.	A comprehensive programme of training is in place. The Education Department is confident that Schools have an understanding of the child protection process and are aware of their responsibilities.	Has been achieved

<p>Implement a work programme in accordance with the recommendations of the annual audit and also consider any opportunities for improvement.</p>	<p>A training programme is in place based on the findings of the annual audits.</p>	<p>Has been achieved.</p>
<p>D3- Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults</p>		
<p>Develop a wide range of different methods for individuals to be heard.</p>	<p>A range of different methods for individuals to be heard need to be developed in response to the Winterbourne Report's recommendations in addition to the Older People's Commissioner's report "Where to Call Home" The Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit's work programme refers to engagement work with service users and carrying out an audit of experiences. We will be working with service users to ensure that sustainable safeguarding plans are in place which are suitable for their needs. The Quality Assurance Officers will engage with residents, individuals who receive home care and their families to get feedback and to identify lessons to be learned.</p>	<p>Work programme in place for 2017/18</p>
<p>Identify whether there is appropriate use of advocacy and try to respond to any shortcomings.</p>	<p>In addition to the above, identifying whether there is appropriate use of advocacy and trying to respond to any shortcomings is needed. The Advocacy service is extensively used when carrying out DoLS work, but it should be ensured that advocacy is offered to individuals who are under the Safeguarding procedure and receiving Services in the Adults field.</p>	<p>Work programme in place for 2017/18</p>
<p>Provide evidence that the corporate groups can demonstrate that they listen to the voices of vulnerable adults.</p>	<p>The Operational Panel for Safeguarding Children and Adults is a Corporate group which meets every quarter. The Panel discusses matters such as Safeguarding and how the Department can take responsibility for listening to the voices of vulnerable adults. The work of reviewing the Corporate Safeguarding Policy will begin in May.</p>	<p>Has been achieved.</p>

3. Broader Safeguarding Matters

3.1 CONTEST/PREVENT

3.2 The UK Government Counter-terrorism and Security Act 2015 introduces a duty on local authorities, schools and colleges as part of their role, to give due attention to the need to prevent people from being attracted to terrorism. The UK Government's PREVENT strategy is one of the four 'CONTEST' strands, the Home Office's broader counter-terrorism strategy, and mainly relates to preventing people from becoming terrorists or from supporting terrorists and violent extremism. The PREVENT strategy specifically:

- Responds to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it.
- Prevent individuals from being attracted to terrorism and ensuring they receive appropriate advice and assistance.
- Work with other sectors and institutions where there is a danger of radicalization that needs to be addressed.

3.3 The Regional 'CONTEST' Board, which is a multi-agency board with representation from Gwynedd Council, is in place. Morwenna Edwards, Corporate Director represents Gwynedd on the 'CONTEST' Board. The Gwynedd and Anglesey Community Safeguarding Partnership has the responsibility to supervise 'PREVENT' programmes within the partnership's services.

3.4 The PREVENT strategy includes developing a wide range of activities including practical assistance, advice and support and during incidents and programmes supporting individuals and institutions to offset malicious ideologies. During the 2016/17 year a comprehensive training programme has been carried out within Gwynedd schools, with most of our schools' staff completing safeguarding children training (level 1 or 2) which includes modules on radicalization.

3.5 The 2017/18 PREVENT work programme has focussed on running this training for Council staff on every level. E-learning modules have been prepared by the Home Office and have been shared with the Learning and Development Department, and are available to the Council's staff.

3.6 In addition it is a statutory requirement for us to conduct 'CHANNEL' panels which are multi-agency meetings that focus on supporting people early on who have been recognised as being at risk of being attracted to terrorism. The panel works in a multi-agency method to identify individuals, assess a dangerous nature and develop effective and appropriate ways to support the individuals. In Gwynedd, 'CHANNEL' Panels arrangements are in place and will respond promptly to the need for intervention when it arises.

3.7 Violence against Women, domestic abuse and Sexual Violence

- 3.8 The Violence against Women, Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act came into force in 2015. The aim of the act is to improve the response of the public sector in Wales to abuse and violence of this kind. The Act specifically places responsibilities upon Councils to establish a Regional operational structure. To this end, the Regional Strategic Board has been established with Morwenna Edwards, Corporate Director representing the Council on the Board. The Board has appointed a 'Regional Advisor', as is required in the Act and they are now working on a regional transformation program which means that local officers will move to be part of a regional team.
- 3.9 One of the main responsibilities as a result of the Act is the national training framework. The Framework includes six training groups. All public service professions will belong to one of these groups and every member of the Council's workforce is required to receive the relevant training.
- 3.10 The Welsh Government expected Councils to have completed 50% of the training by the end of the year (2017). This was not achieved for several reasons including the inadequate standard of the Welsh language learning materials as well as technical matters. The Council is working with the Welsh Government to try to overcome these obstacles. Disseminating the training will be a priority for 2018/19.

3.11 Modern Slavery

- 3.12 Modern Slavery is not a crime that is restricted to a single region or activity or field. During 2017/18, three cases were received in relation to Modern Slavery/People Trafficking in Gwynedd and they were referred to the relevant bodies.
- 3.13 During the year referral arrangements for staff and the public with any suspicions have been outlined on the Council's website. In addition, a Single Point of Contact, namely Arwel Owen, Senior Manager within the Housing Department has been confirmed to deal with external and internal enquiries. The Council will prepare reports every quarter for the Board and they will also be shared with the Panel.
- 3.14 Gwynedd Council is required to acknowledge that it has a responsibility as an employer to be aware of the potential of receiving cases of modern slavery and to report on such cases to the relevant bodies.
- 3.15 Gwynedd Council's Modern Slavery Statement is already available on the Council's website.
- 3.16 Additionally, in July 2018 the Council Cabinet approved the Welsh Government Code of Practice for ethical employment in supply chains which aims to ensure that every organisation in the public sector acts to eradicate unlawful and unethical employment practices.

3.17 County Lines

- 3.18 County lines is the Police term for gangs in large towns that supply drugs to suburban areas and markets and coastal towns using mobile phones or 'dealing lines'. It includes the criminal exploitation of children as gangs use children and vulnerable people to carry drugs and money. The gangs find a site to act as a base for the market, usually by occupying the homes of local vulnerable adults either by force or by pressurising them, which is called 'cuckooing'.
- 3.19 County lines is a major, cross-boundary problem that is related to drugs, violence, gangs, safeguarding, criminal and sexual exploitation, modern slavery and missing people; and the response to tackle it includes the Police, the National Crime Agency, a number of Government departments, local government agencies and organisations in the voluntary and community sector.
- 3.20 During the year, the Panel received a presentation from the Police on the challenge Gwynedd is facing in the 'County lines' battle.

4. External Inspections received during the period

4.1 Review of 'A Place to Call Home' (Older People's Commissioner)

During the year, the Adults, Health and Well-being Department has responded to the recommendations in the report of the Older People's Commissioner, 'A Place to Call Home'.

http://www.olderpeoplewales.com/Libraries/summariesw/110118_Gwynedd_-_FINAL_w.sflb.ashx

4.3 Annual Letter 2017/18 (Care Inspectorate Wales CIW).

Due to organisational reasons within CIW, the Director will not be receiving an annual letter from the Inspectorate.

4.3 Inspection Report on the Children and Supporting Families Service

In May 2017, CIW carried out a full inspection on child services in Gwynedd.

https://arolygiaethgofal.cymru/sites/default/files/2018-08/180829-gwasanaethau-plant-cyngor-gwynedd-cy_0.pdf

5. Practice Reviews

- 5.1 Wales has developed a Child Practice Review (CPR) framework to improve the culture of learning from child protection cases. 'Brief' or 'extended' reports are in place depending on the circumstances of the child in question. The reports focus on improving practice. During this period Gwynedd has had two extended practice case reviews (ECPR). There have been no CPRs in Gwynedd during this time.
- 5.2 Similarly, Adult Practice Reviews are held on behalf of the North Wales Adult Safeguarding Board. They are also a method that enables every partner agency to note

the lessons that can be learnt from especially complicated or difficult cases of Adult Safeguarding and implement changes to services in response to these lessons. Gwynedd currently has one APR case which is about to close (APR Gwynedd 1). This case's full report will be available on the Regional Board website soon and in accordance with child reviews the Panel will look at any lessons deriving from the practice reviews and will ensure that appropriate action is taken according to those lessons.

6. The intention looking forward - 2018 and beyond

- 6.1 As stated at the beginning of this report, the Council has prioritised and promoted the Safeguarding field within the Strategic Plan by ensuring that it receives cross-departmental consideration and attention from the whole Council - rather than being seen as a responsibility for some departments only.
- 6.2 As we have already noted, the work and responsibility of the Strategic Safeguarding Panel's is now extended to include counter terrorism and preventing radicalization duties, modern slavery requirements, domestic violence requirements and Social Inclusion Requirements. This will ensure that the Panel has an overview of the wider safeguarding agenda which exists and makes best use of the safeguarding operational group and the officers who are champions in the above fields.
- 6.3 The Strategic Safeguarding Panel held a workshop during the year to determine the Panel's future priorities and to ensure that the Operation Safeguarding Panel receives a suitable commission on the work that needs to take place over the coming year.
- 6.4 Using information from the Operational Group, our safeguarding champions and safeguarding experts within the Council, the Panel has concluded there are 4 priorities for 2018/19 to further improve our Corporate Safeguarding arrangements.
- 6.5 Our priority fields for 2018/19 are
- Improve the Strategic Safeguarding Panel's governance arrangements and develop suitable measures for this purpose.
 - Review the arrangements for regional Safeguarding meetings to better understand the regional landscape and to identify where we add value.
 - Review our 'Safeguarding Adults at risk' arrangements to ensure that Gwynedd's response coincides with the requirements of the act.
 - Look to create a comprehensive Safeguarding course for the workforce that includes all safeguarding matters to ensure that the workforce has up-to-date knowledge of safeguarding.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 This report is presented in order to give an overview of the activities happening within the safeguarding field within the Council. The emphasis of the work is on the fact the safeguarding is a corporate responsibility and not something for the Education Department and Social Services Department only.

- 7.2 Last year's achievements regarding the work programme highlights the Strategic Panel and Operational Group's activity and the hard work which has been done in terms of continuing to improve our corporate safeguarding and protection arrangements. External audits and practice reviews have generally given positive feedback. The specific cases raised also offer opportunities to learn and to improve and review our arrangements.
- 7.3 In future this report will include fit for purpose Performance Measures that will show the progress and the difference that the Council is achieving within safeguarding.

For information

Annual Report of the North Wales Regional Safeguarding Board

<http://www.bwrdddiogelugogleddcymru.cymru/wp-content/uploads//2018/07/Annual-Report-2017-18-Version-6a-FINAL-June-cym-docx.pdf>