

MEETING	Services Scrutiny Committee
DATE	26.11.15
TITLE	Report on the work of the Strategic Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Panel
PURPOSE	To scrutinise the Report in question
AUTHOR	Councillor Mair Rowlands Morwena Edwards, Corporate Director

1 The decision sought/purpose of the report

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to scrutinise the Report on the work of the Strategic Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Panel (Appendix 1).

2 Introduction

- 2.1 The intention of the report submitted is to look back at what has been achieved over the period from April 2014 – March 2015 as well as the opinion of external auditors where relevant. The report also gives an overview of the work of the Panel for this year. (For information – it is intended to submit a similar report for 2015/16 during May 2016).

Members will be aware that the field of safeguarding is one of the Council's main responsibilities and it has also been included as a main priority within the Strategic Plan.

Members will also be aware that the field of safeguarding focuses on our responsibilities to ensure that the children and vulnerable adults of Gwynedd are protected from abuse.

In addition, we are expected to intervene in a timely and appropriate manner when a child or vulnerable adult needs to be protected from abuse. There are national guidelines in place in order to drive practice in this field and the appropriate Services collaborate with other relevant agencies e.g. the police.

It is important to note here that safeguarding is a matter for everyone, and some can make the mistake of thinking that safeguarding is the responsibility of staff within social services only. In order to ensure that the Council promotes this mind-set and culture, the Strategic Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Panel was established to

drive and monitor corporate arrangements. The Panel has mixed membership, with three cabinet members along with the relevant senior officers present.

3 Relevant Considerations

- 3.1 It should be borne in mind that this report is a report on the work of the Strategic Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Panel; therefore it focuses on the corporate arrangements of safeguarding rather than specific cases in the field. Other arrangements exist, such as the Regional Safeguarding Boards for Children and Vulnerable Adults, in order to deal with specialist matters in the field. These Regional Safeguarding Boards are statutory and are of a multidisciplinary and multiagency nature.

4 Reasons for recommending the decision

- 4.1 It is believed that the report summarises the work of the Strategic Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Panel in a correct and fair manner and it is essential that members are aware of the Panel's work and are able to satisfy themselves that the Panel has undertaken the required work in a thorough and conscientious manner.

5 Next steps and timetable

- 5.1 The report will be submitted to the Cabinet in December.

6 List of Appendices/Bibliography

Appendix 1