

GWYNEDD COUNCIL – Report to Cyngor Gwynedd Scrutiny

Item title:	Safeguarding Policy Review (2026)
Cabinet Member:	Cllr. Dewi Jones, Cabinet Member for Education and Chair of the Strategic Safeguarding Panel
Relevant Officer:	Dylan Owen, Statutory Director of Social Services
Meeting date:	4 June 2026

1. Why does it need to be scrutinised?

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the revised Corporate Safeguarding Policy to the Scrutiny Committee, giving members the opportunity to review the content and provide comments before the policy is formally adopted.

2. What exactly needs to be scrutinised?

2.1 Members are asked to consider whether the revised Corporate Safeguarding Policy is clear, up to date, and appropriately reflects the Council's safeguarding responsibilities. Members are also asked to consider whether there are any gaps, risks, or issues that should be addressed prior to adoption of the policy.

2.2 The key changes introduced as part of this review are outlined within the report below.

3. Background / Context

3.1 A review of the Council's Safeguarding Policy is carried out on a two-year cycle. This policy notes how the Council intends to achieve its statutory responsibilities to safeguard children and adults who are at risk, in accordance with the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

3.2 Between January and March 2026, a comprehensive review of the Policy was carried out. A sub-group was established to lead the review, including the Director of Social Services, Safeguarding Children and Adults Managers, Learning and Development Manager, Head of Adults Department, Community Safety Officer, and Senior Executive Officer.

3.3 Several changes were made to the Safeguarding Policy following the review, including strengthening the clarity and usefulness of the document. More emphasis was placed on explaining the pathway for raising concerns, highlighting it clearly at the beginning of the document. More practical procedures were developed for reporting and

recording concerns, including a detailed, new section, noting the information that should be recorded when seeing or hearing about a safeguarding matter.

- 3.4 The accountability and lead role of senior officers was strengthened, and the roles and responsibilities of individuals and different groups of staff were also made clearer. The review also further highlight the safeguarding responsibilities of organisations commissioned by Cyngor Gwynedd.
- 3.5 The training requirements were explained more explicitly, emphasising the mandatory and regular (every three years) training expectations for staff and elected members, as well as strengthening the compliance monitoring arrangements.
- 3.6 Further steps were taken to strengthen accountability across the Council in the safeguarding field. The Policy now includes the following requirements:
- Including data (%) on the number who have completed safeguarding training and domestic violence training as a part of the Performance Challenge process in each department.
 - Establishing safeguarding as a permanent item on the agenda of the Corporate Management Team.
 - Asking every department to include safeguarding as a standing item on the agendas of our departmental management team.
 - Continuing with the procedure of submitting the Annual Report to the Care Scrutiny Committee, the Cabinet and the full Council.
- 3.7 An informal consultation on the revised Policy was held with members of the Safeguarding Strategic Panel and members of the Safeguarding Operational Group, and a number of valuable comments were received as part of the process.
- 3.8 The adoption of the new Policy will ensure that the Council has a robust safeguarding procedure in place, and fulfils its statutory responsibilities for safeguarding children and adults at risk.

4. Next steps

- 4.1 The Policy will be presented to the Cabinet in July. If the Policy is approved by Cabinet, a copy for information will go before the next Full Council meeting. It is felt that this is an important step in order to raise the awareness of elected members.

Attachment List:

Appendix 1 - Draft Safeguarding Policy (2026 Review)