CYNGOR GWYNEDD – Report to Cyngor Gwynedd's Cabinet

Item Title:	Quarterly Report – Chair of the Response Plan Programme Board (November 2026)
Cabinet Member:	Cllr. Nia Jeffreys, Leader of the Council
Relevant Officer:	Dafydd Gibbard, Chief Executive
Date of meeting:	10 November 2026

1. The Decision Sought:

1.1 The Cabinet is asked to accept the quarterly report from the Chair of the Response Plan Programme Board and to agree that future reports be submitted on a seasonal basis (every four months).

2. The reason for the need for a decision:

2.1 A Response Plan was adopted by the Cabinet of Gwynedd Council in January 2025 to coordinate all support, reviews, inspections and other workstreams relating to the response to offences committed by the former Headteacher, Neil Foden.

2.2 Following the publication of the Child Practice Review report (*Our Courage Brought Justice*) in autumn 2025, a revised version of the Response Plan was adopted in March 2026, in line with the recommendations set out.

2.3 There was a commitment to continue to report quarterly to Cabinet Members on the progress of the Response Board's work programme and operation.

2.4 The report is shared by the Chair of the Response Plan Programme Board, with the intention of raising awareness of the developments and what has and needs to be achieved by the Response Plan Programme Board.

3. Introduction and rationale

3.1 The Chief Executive was commissioned to put arrangements in place for the implementation of the content of the Response Plan including establishing a dedicated Programme Board and regular reporting on progress to Cabinet.

3.2 Professor Sally Holland was appointed to the role of Independent Chair of the Board in February 2025. Sally is Professor of Social Work at the Children's Social Care Research

and Development Centre (CASCADE) at Cardiff University and a former Children's Commissioner for Wales (2015-2022).

3.3 Since the adoption of the Response Plan, much of the Programme Board's work has focused on establishing governance arrangements, developing actions and driving delivery against specific recommendations. As the programme has matured, the emphasis has increasingly shifted from the completion of individual actions towards implementation, embedding good practice and measuring the impact of change across services.

3.4 In this context, a quarterly reporting cycle can sometimes limit the opportunity to demonstrate meaningful progress and evidence of impact. It is therefore proposed that future reporting arrangements move to a seasonal cycle of three reports per year, aligned with Programme Board meetings. This will provide sufficient time for actions to be embedded, for outcomes and impact to become evident, and for the Board to consider progress before reporting to Cabinet. The revised arrangements will continue to provide regular assurance and transparency whilst enabling more substantive and meaningful updates.

4. Next Steps

4.1 The Board's work continues with the intention of reporting back to Cabinet on progress in 4 months' time (March).

5. Comments of Statutory Officers.

5.1 Chief Finance Officer

The decision sought will not create a new spending commitment and I have no further comments to add.

5.2 Monitoring Officer

The Programme Board has been established by the Cabinet to co-ordinate and ensure progress on the Response Plan which it adopted. It is key to this governance arrangement that the Cabinet receives regular updates on progress in this all-important work. A report by the Independent Chair, Professor Sally Holland is a transparent and robust method of providing that assurance. I welcome this latest report.